

THE JOURNAL

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June 10, 1999 • 50 cents (tax included)

Review CCCT serves up witty 'Dinner at Eight' [A2]

Sports Winnacker leaps to finals at state meet [C1]

 ALBANY BRANCH
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Parcel tax wins convincingly

By Tony Mercado

ALBANY — Voters overwhelmingly passed a \$120 annual parcel tax Tuesday that will preserve and expand education programs cut years ago in the Albany Unified School District because of lost state funding.

Measure A will raise about \$1 million per year for the district. With all eight precincts reporting, 78 percent of the voters threw their support behind the measure. The tax secured well above the two-thirds majority needed to pass.

June 30 is deadline to apply for seniors to apply for exemption to tax. Page A9

The measure will impose a \$10 monthly tax effective July 1 on the city's estimated 7,200 homeowners and also on commercial businesses.

Under the ballot measure, homeowners older than 65 can apply for an exemption. The deadline to file an exemption.

See WIN, Page A6

Plaza phase I wins approval

Work is expected to start next month

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — At last week's Planning Commission meeting, urban village dreams collided with market-driven reality and Plaza owners were told: Slow down, but drive on. Five of six commissioners present at the audience-rich meeting approved plans for Phase I of the new Plaza. Phase I concerns the northern part of the Plaza site and includes all the new buildings and most of the "pedestrian friendly" and "urban edge" aspects touted by the developer.

Phase II, essentially refurbishing the older existing south-side retail buildings and dealing with Cerrito Creek and Ohlone Greenway access issues, was split off from last week's vote. It will come before the commission as a separate item in the future. City Planner Edward Phillips said the fact that Phase II still has to be approved "won't affect the progress of Phase I." More than 80 people at last week's meeting included residents, Plaza merchants, city staff, consultants and other representatives of the Plaza owners. Larry Damon, the City Council liaison to the Planning Commission, attended, as did Mayor Gina Brusatori. Expectation, anxiety and suspicion also filled the room.

"It's kind of an exciting night," said Ronald Holley, the project manager representing principal owners American Stores and the El Cerrito Plaza Co.

Holley and architect Edward Gee presented the commission with a separate item in the future. City Planner Edward Phillips said the fact that Phase II still has to be approved "won't affect the progress of Phase I." More than 80 people at last week's meeting included residents, Plaza merchants, city staff, consultants and other representatives of the Plaza owners. Larry Damon, the City Council liaison to the Planning Commission, attended, as did Mayor Gina Brusatori. Expectation, anxiety and suspicion also filled the room.

See APPROVAL, Page A9

Swim center is targeted by EC study

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — "This is not where you want to be in an earthquake," Community Services Manager Monica Kortz said to visitors while giving a tour of the swim center's pump room last week.

The underground bunkerlike room has a maze of some old and some new pipes, several old turn valves—some frozen in place with rust—and a sagging ceiling with re-bar exposed in places.

"The building inspector tells us we're supposed to wear hard hats" she said, holding up a plastic safety hat like the ones usually seen at construction sites. Apparently, pieces of cement falling from the ceiling are an on-the-job hazard for some at the El Cerrito swim center.

Reconstruction and repair of the city's parks and recreation facilities has been a frequent topic at civic meetings for some time.

The Park and Recreation Commission conducted extensive public surveys starting in late 1997 to discover what people want in their city's parks and recreation facilities. The commission reported that, among other things, a renovated and upgraded swim center is a priority for many in the community.

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YEARS OF "BAND-AID" repairs can't hide the condition of the rusted diving boards and other aspects of the El Cerrito Community Center swimming pool, seen on a tour of the facility by Community Services Manager Monica Kortz.

Last month the Committee of the Whole met with Kortz and Park and Recreation representatives to discuss matters and set funding priorities.

In March, the city also began a process to find a qualified developer to design and give accurate cost estimates to renovate or reconstruct the swim center. Six developers responded to the city's call.

The Swim Center Citizens Advisory Committee is now reviewing and rating the six proposals with the help of Kortz.

See POOL, Page A9



TODD EAGLE has a big weekend ahead. On Friday the Albany High senior will celebrate at Grad Night with his friends. The next day he is off to Florida to play rookie baseball in Clearwater after being selected by the Philadelphia Phillies in Major League Baseball's amateur draft last week.

All-star catcher holds tight to his dream

Philadelphia Phillies draft AHS senior catcher Todd Eagle last week

By James Carter

Todd Eagle—a senior at Albany High School—helped tutor students studying English as a second language June 3. But he was a bit distracted that day.

Finals were scheduled for the following Monday, marking the beginning of a hectic week that would culminate with commencement exercises.

It was a strange juncture for seniors. Graduation meant things would never be the same again. Everyone was certain of that much. Yet few knew what exactly would happen next as they watched the present meld with the future, a surreal vision recorded in slow motion by the mind's eye.

At home, Eagle's entire family was on edge and everyone—especially Todd—had trouble sleeping at night. Things had been that way for more than a week. And the phone kept ringing and ringing. It was driving everyone nuts.

As Eagle tried to focus on tutoring, back at home, the phone rang again. His father Gary answered. It was 10 a.m.

Todd soon received a slip summoning him to the front office at school.

He trembled as he stepped into one of the few remaining permanent buildings at AHS. Then Eagle heard the news—the Philadelphia Phillies had drafted him to play baseball.

Ever since he was a toddler, Eagle wanted to play ball. When he was 18

EAGLE'S RECORD

Todd Eagle played for the Albany High Cougars during his entire high school career. He was co-captain of the team last year, and captain this season. The Cougars were 8-3 this year. They made the playoffs but were beaten by Alameda High School in the first round. Alameda went on to win the ACCAL title. Eagle's individual accomplishments:

- Twice voted All League catcher
- Hit .470 in league play, .504 overall
- Threw out 12 of 17 runners
- Voted one of the top 100 athletes of the year by the West County Times
- Maintained 3.6 GPA while playing ball

months old, Eagle dressed up as a professional baseball player for Halloween. By age 3 he was practically inseparable from his Wiffle Ball bat—a regular Bamm Bamm in the flesh.

All in the family

The two-time first team all-star AHS

See EAGLE, Page A9

Is a tempest brewing at Albany Bulb?

Residents of landfill plan to rally against coming evictions

By James Carter

ALBANY — Nagging questions about the former landfill known as the Bulb made waves at an otherwise pacific meeting of the City Council June 7.

Things threatened to get stormy as several residents of the Bulb—and at least two supporters—grilled council members about the planned use of \$50,000 earmarked for that rock-and-rubble area.

The questioning occurred during an open discussion about the capital improvement program budget. Yet despite the presence of ionized air, the threat of a storm never materialized.

City staff recommended the council appropriate funds to a handful of "new

initiatives," including \$50,000 "for issues relating to the Albany Landfill, including the completion of a new closure order/monitoring plan." Among other things, that plan addressed what staff referred to as "site security."

The mere mention of the term prompted some Bulb residents to shuffle out in their seats.

Tomas McCabe, a Berkeley resident concerned about the welfare of Bulb residents, asked specifically how the \$50,000 would be used.

"Just like any business, we have projects and we use it as we need it," Mayor Peggy Thomsen said.

When later pressed for details regarding the term "site security," Thomsen said one of the major things the city has to deal with at the landfill is its "physical state," and part of the \$50,000 would be used in the next year "to physically secure the site."

A portentous "oohOOHoo" cooed

See LANDFILL, Page A9

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KNIGHT RIDDER

INFORMATION FOR LIFE

Wit and pathos on 'Dinner' menu at CCCT

By Phyllis Lyon

The venerable Contra Costa Civic Theatre in El Cerrito rings down the curtain on its 39th season with a pared-down, semi-concert reading of "Dinner at Eight." The 1932 serio-comedy by George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber plays at 8 p.m. next Friday and Saturday evenings with a matinee Sunday at 2 p.m. on the CCCT stage on Pomona Avenue.

Though "Dinner" director Louis Flynn, who said he had chosen "18 of the most talented actors to have graced our stage within the last 10 years," has condensed the play to two hours, the wit and pathos of the original version are intact. The costumes may be variations of black and the set barebones, but the choice meat remains.

Inspired by the news that an English lord is coming to town, Millicent Jordan (played with frenzied hauteur by Dory Ehrlich) snags the lord, invites eight of the smartest of New York's smart set and prepares for the ill-fated dinner at eight. In a series of vignettes, the tribulations of the would-be guests is revealed until, at the final curtain, "dinner is served." Though Millicent is clueless, the Depression is in full swing.

Her husband, Oliver Jordan III (Phil Reed), is ailing and about to lose Jordan Industries to Dan Packard (Todd Miller), former Montana miner turned sneaky entrepreneur.

Meanwhile, Packard and his wife, Kitty (Susan Oliver), the former hatched girl, duke it out across town. It turns out Kitty is being mistreated in more ways than one by society doc-

tor J.

Wayne Talbot (Peter Fosselius). Maria Fraser plays Lucy, the doctor's miffed wife.

In the Marie Dressler role from the movie of the same name, Pat Parker sparkles as the flamboyant Carlotta Vance, fresh from London where she entertained "Noel and Winston and sometimes The Prince." But also on her uppers, Carlotta merrily undercuts her old pal, Oliver, without compunction.

Meanwhile, stuck in his hotel room, star actor Larry Renault (Simon Patton), called The Great Profile also known as John Barrymore, struggles to save his dying career. Trying in vain to get him back on his feet are the Jordans' daughter Paula (Alexia Marquis) with whom he is having a secret affair, his agent Max Kane (David Lee) and the big Broadway producer, Joe Stengel (Bob Knop, in one of three roles).

Youthful Simon Trumble is saucy as the narrator who sets the time and place of the scenes as well as the feisty hotel bell boy who Renault sends out for booze.

Completing the cast of the upper-crust upstairs are Parcae Fort as Millie's sister, Hattie Loomis, and Louis Flynn as her grumpy husband, Ed.

Meanwhile, downstairs the servants have their own problems.

The Jordans' butler, Gustave (Andrew Gabel) has good reason not to marry the housemaid, Dora (Susanah Scott), who is in turn chased around the kitchen by houseboy Ricci (Tyler Young). Fort also plays the toothache-ridden cook whose lobster aspic didn't gel, or so she says. Cindy

DINNER AT EIGHT

Contra Costa Civic Theatre's PlayMakers Series presents "Dinner at Eight" by George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber, directed by Louis Flynn, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$7 general admission. Reservations: 524-9132. The theater is at 951 Pomona Ave. in El Cerrito.

Kinnard is Kitty Packard's sly maid, Tina.

Following the opening night performance of Dinner at Eight, a Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Ceremony honored a business and individuals for outstanding contributions to the theater.

President of the CCCT Board of Directors Steven Kirby presented plaques of appreciation to Janis Sadler of Norgie Cleaners in Albany for keeping the company's over 200 costumes fresh.

Equally honored were Bob Bacon, former board chairman and Albany photographer for speedy production of cast pictures; Aubrey McClellan, master carpenter, for set-building prowess; Joe Novitsky, facilities manager, for keeping the auditorium spotless and the lights blazing; Peter Fosselius, technical director, for 12 years of unwavering devotion to meticulous lighting design; Stephen Bathurst, stage manager, who leaves El Cerrito for MIT; and Sandra Mighetto, house manager, for efforts above and beyond the call of duty during the past year.

Farmers Market relocating to south side of El Cerrito plaza

The popular El Cerrito Plaza Farmers Market celebrates its fifth anniversary this month. In conjunction with this anniversary the Farmers Market is moving to the south side of the El Cerrito Plaza parking lot, sections J-4 and J-5, near the Kains Avenue entrance. This move will be effective Saturday, June 12, and will

mark the beginning of Phase I of the Plaza renovation project.

There will be a celebration on Saturday, June 12 and another on Tuesday, June 15th. The El Cerrito Farmers Market will be giving away coupons, El Cerrito Farmers Market bags and recipes to the first 25 people to come to the market on each of

these days.

The El Cerrito Farmers Market started with a Tuesday market years ago by the El Cerrito Plaza Merchants Association to help bring traffic to the center, which had customers and stores after the morning market closed. Some three years ago a Saturday market was added.

POLICE REPORTS

Neighbors get into a squabble

By K. Osborn

ALBANY — On the morning of May 31 a resident on the 800 block of Cornell Avenue reported that vandals had pasted vulgar posters on the back wall of the post office. There were no witnesses.

On the morning of June 1 a resident on the 900 block of Adams Street reported she had left her backpack in her front yard and thieves stole it. There were no witnesses.

On the morning of June 2 a resident on the 900 block of Evelyn Avenue reported that during the night thieves broke into his blue '93 Ford Aerostar and stole items of value. There were no witnesses.

At about 4 p.m. on June 2 a resident on the 1300 block of Marin Avenue reported that within the previous hour thieves had stolen a potted plant from her front porch. There were no witnesses.

At about 5:30 p.m. on June 2 officers responded to reports of a fight

on the 800 block of Kains Avenue. Officers arrested a 16-year-old Albany boy for public intoxication, battery and resisting arrest. He was released to his stepfather with a Notice to Appear.

At about 7:30 p.m. on June 3 Albany officers responded to reports of an altercation between two men on the 1100 block of Nielson Street. Officers found a 55-year-old Albany man and a 36-year-old Albany man, neighbors, who had been arguing. The situation escalated and the 36-year-old man started punching the 55-year-old man. The older man responded by spraying pepper spray on the younger man. Officers arrested the younger man for battery. He was cited and released with a Notice to Appear. He then requested an ambulance to take him to the hospital. The next morning the younger man returned home and discovered he had locked himself out. He requested officers stand-by while he climbed in a window because he feared reprisals from his neighbor. Later that second day the older man requested officers take pictures of his car which he

claimed the younger man had scratched and dented the hood. This was all a party that the older man did not want to attend but the younger man was him to.

At about 2 a.m. on June 5 Albany officers stopped a black '89 Toyota San Pablo Avenue near Marin Avenue because of erratic driving. The driver, a 35-year-old Milpitas woman, was found to be intoxicated. She was arrested and cited and was released when she was sober.

During the week of May 30 Albany officers towed two cars, responded to 12 false alarms, attended to nine or deceased animals, assisted five people who were locked out of their homes or cars and responded to six reports of barking dogs. In the domestic violence category, officers responded to 12 reports of disturbances and 57 Civil Assaults. Albany officers stopped 81 vehicles, issued 38 citations and 43 warrants. Albany firefighters/paramedics responded to four fire calls and eight medical emergencies.

Some burglary attempts successful, some no

EL CERRITO — A 17-year-old male involved in a rear end automobile collision was arrested on suspicion driving under the influence May 8. The incident occurred at the 10400 block of San Pablo Avenue at 2:52 a.m.

The owner of a home on the 5900 block of Alameda Avenue returned home May 16 only to discover a thief ripped him off to the tune of \$570 in valuables. Yet all the doors were locked, the owner told police, and there was no sign of forced entry.

At 9:24 p.m. May 18, a would-be burglar moved a bench beneath the window of a residence located on the 1600 block of Roger Street. The thief removed the screen and forced the window open. But before he could enter the home, a neighbor spotted the crook who dashed off into the dark.

The morning of May 18, a man strolled into Grand Auto Supply on San Pablo Avenue and picked out a clutch kit from the parts department. He later made a U turn and cruised out of the store without paying for the merchandise.

An unknown suspect used bolt cutters to snap through the lock of apartment complex storage room on the 816 block of Lexington Avenue May

18. Just after noon on May 18, three teenage boys sliced through the screen of an open kitchen window on the 500 block of Ashbury Avenue and climbed inside the house. As another teen kept a lookout in front, the young thieves ripped off \$1,880 in cash and jewelry — the belongings of a 77-year-old retired man.

At 7:30 p.m. May 18, a crook kicked in the bottom panel of a basement door when the owner of the home suddenly popped his head through a window nearby. The suspect fled.

A 21-year-old man punched a 68-year-old woman and knocked her to

the ground during an argument on 5300 block of School Street May 24. The senior citizen immediately phoned the suspect under citizens arrest. Police took him into custody.

Sometime between May 23 and 24, a vandal used a pellet gun to alter the window of an automobile parked on the 3300 block of Belmont Avenue.

Another vandal — or possibly the same one — slammed a piece of concrete through the rear window of a car parked on the 700 block of El Street the morning of May 26.

WORTH CHECKING OUT

Codomices Creek

Saturday, June 12, join Friends of Five Creeks in restoring Codomices Creek where it crosses the Ohlone Greenway, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Remove invasive ivy, weed and water young native plants, strengthen log retaining walls, and talk over plans for a new bench and bridge rail. Meet under the BART tracks, opposite 1200 Masonic, on the Berkeley-Albany border. Bring gloves, tools for removing ivy, and post-hole diggers if you have them.

Fete for superintendent

A retirement dinner-dance for Albany Unified School District Superintendent J. Dale Hudson will be held on Saturday, June 12 at 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Emeryville. Tickets are \$40 per person. Ticket deadline is May 29. Seating is limited. Call Beverly Feusler in the Office of the Superintendent. Details: 559-6614.

Thank a teacher

Parents of graduating seniors are encouraged to express thanks to their favorite teacher by writing a personal message on a special "Apple for the Teacher" card. The Albany Education Foundation calls it a chance to say "Thanks a million!" to a special teacher in Albany Schools. The "apples" will be displayed on an "apple tree" at the Albany Library. You are invited to donate \$19.99 to the Albany Education

Foundation in honor of your graduate and their favorite teacher. Details: 524-7737.

Kensington Library events

The Kensington Library has several upcoming events for children and parents. The library, at 61 Arlington Ave., is open from 1 to 6 p.m. Monday, from noon to 8 p.m. Tuesday, from 1 to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Story time for families meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays. The program is suitable for children 4 and older and their families. The new series begins May 25 and ends Aug. 3. Story time for preschoolers is at 10:30 a.m. Thursdays. The new series runs May 27 through Aug. 5. Registration is required. Details: Pamela McKay, 510-524-3043.

Preschool applications

Applications for Albany Preschool's 1999 Summer School are now available at the preschool. The eight-week session will begin on June 21 and end on Aug. 13. There will be a morning parent co-operative program (9 a.m. to noon) and an afternoon non-parent participation program (noon to 3 p.m. or noon to 5 p.m.). It is possible to sign up for mornings, afternoons, or both. Albany Preschool, 850 Masonic Ave., is also currently enrolling students for its Fall 1999 Afternoon Non-Parent Participation Program. Details: 527-6403.

Kensington Symphony

The Kensington Symphony Orchestra, directed by Lloyd Elliot, and the Contra Costa Choral, directed by Richard Kramer will jointly perform Joseph Haydn's "The Seasons" with soloists Barbara Lanier, soprano, Michael Kull, tenor, and Eric Howe, bass-baritone. Performances are Saturday, June 12 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, June 13 at 7 p.m., at the First Baptist Church, 770 Sonoma Street in Richmond Heights. Plenty of free off-street parking is available. Suggested ticket contribution: \$10 general, \$8 students/seniors. Tickets will be available at the door. Children under 12 are free. Details: 527-2026.

Juneteenth Festival

The city of Richmond is hosting its 19th Annual Juneteenth Festival on Saturday, June 19 in the Civic Center Plaza. Parade starts at 10:30 a.m. at Marina Way and McDonald and the Festival starts at 12 noon until 6 p.m. There will be food booths, merchandise booths and entertainment will feature Ed Kelley, Park Place Band, Tia Caroli, independent Community Church, Sunny Lewis and Friends, gospel singers, rap artist, and dancers.

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EDITORIAL

Newsroom Phone..... (510) 339-4030
email: journal@ccjtimes.com
fax (510) 339-4030

Voice Mail..... (510) 236-5830

Editor - Chris Treadway..... (510) 339-4030

email: ctreadway@ccjtimes.com

Sports Editor - Peter Mentor..... (510) 273-9100

email: pmentor@ccjtimes.com

Real Estate Editor - John Snyder..... (510) 339-4030

email: jsnyder@ccjtimes.com

ADVERTISING

Advertising Director - Heather Morgan..... (510) 339-4030

Classified/Legal Advertising..... (510) 339-4030

fax (510) 339-4030

Real Estate Advertising..... (510) 339-4030

Retail Advertising..... (510) 339-4030

fax (510) 339-4030

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Publisher - Scott Little..... (510) 339-4030

Business Manager - Mari Walden..... (510) 339-4030

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Circulation Manager - Patricia Hill..... (510) 339-4030

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IN BRIEF

Study session on county's Urban Limit Line

MARTINEZ—County Supervisor David B. Ullema is inviting West County residents to participate in a workshop next week on Contra Costa's Urban Limit Line Review study.

The urban limit line, intended to contain sprawl and preserve open space, is a General Plan policy that designates buildable area from designated open space. It was created in 1990 in conjunction with the passage of Measure C. It serves to implement the law, which sunsets in 2010, by setting out a ratio of 65 percent open space to 35 percent development.

The June 16 session for West County residents will solicit concerns and comments from residents, explain supervisors' actions and to provide residents with an understanding of the line and its purpose. Maps and written material will be available at the meeting, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Herndon City Hall, 11 Civic Dr. in Herndon.

Details: (925) 335-1046 or (925) 526-1046.

Summer reading, twilight programs

Don't miss the upcoming summer reading game and twilight programs at the Albany Library.

The free game board will be available beginning the week of June 14 running through Aug. 14. Spinning and stamping of the board will begin the week of June 21.

All twilight summer programs, sponsored by the Friends of the Albany Library, begin at 7 p.m. Children's priority seating. Schedule programs include:

"Yo Yo Lady Returns" on Tuesday, June 22;
"Flying Calamari magic" on Tuesday, July 6;
Preschool storytime (ages 3-6) with a book on Tuesday, Aug. 3;
Story Quilters—World Folk Tales on Wednesday, Aug. 4;
Bonnie Lockhart sing-along on Tuesday, Aug. 10;
Preschool storytime (ages 3-6) with a book on Tuesday, Aug. 17;
Preschool storytime (ages 3-6) with a book on Tuesday, Aug. 24.
A school-age film series will be announced. Details: 526-3720.

Library friends' book sale

The huge "Annual Book Sale" sponsored by the Friends of the Albany Library will be held this year on Saturday and Sunday, June 19 and 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The spacious Albany Community Center, corner of Marin and Masonic avenues, will be filled with a great variety of sale items—books for adults, teens, and children on hundreds of subjects and in several languages, plus computer materials, scholarly journals, works, music, magazines, maps, and videos. Throughout the day additional stocks of books and materials will be brought in hourly.

Prices start 50 cents and go up to \$1, with most of the prices in the \$1.50 range. But on Sunday, June 20, a brief closing from 1 to 1:30 p.m., "Great Bargain Bag Treasure Hunt" will begin—everyone can fill a bag of books for just \$3.

If you wish to assist at this sale, you can sign up at the Library Reference desk for two- or three-hour shifts for June 18 (set-up), 19 and/or 20. Or call 527-3720 to reserve a time.

Singers workshop

A Workshop for Singers" is being held by Karen Clark and Paul Boyce on Saturday, June 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Alban's Parish Hall in Albany. Hausmusik, an affiliate of the Contra Costa Early Music Society, a nonprofit organization, sponsors the workshop.

Using Feldenkrais Awareness Through Movement, organizers say the workshop will focus on improving the capacity to make finer distinctions in the use of oneself, which will lead to greater physical comfort, stability and vocal freedom.

Karen Clark is an internationally acclaimed mezzo-soprano who has performed with the world's leading early music ensembles. She holds degrees from the Indiana University School of Music where she studied opera and song literature. She maintains a private studio and formerly taught in association with Princeton University and Swarthmore College. Paul Boyce studied musical composition and voice at St. Olaf College and the University of Minnesota. He has performed with the Dale Warland Singers, The Philadelphia Singers and New York's Ensemble for Early Music. Karen and Paul are held certified practitioners of the Feldenkrais method offering group classes, workshops and private functional integration lessons. Singers of all levels are welcome. The fee is \$40. For more information and to register contact Karen Clark at 595-0916.

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Committee hears financial projections, tax measure ideas

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO—Taxes and trend-lines were front and center at last week's Services for the 21st Century Committee of the Whole meeting. The dozen or so people who attended the meeting heard a sobering report from Financial Review Team members Steve Magyary and George Amberg about city general fund revenue and expenditure trends.

The committee also began considering the specifics of a possible tax measure to put before the voters.

Using assumptions from the city's proposed budget and other economic and fiscal estimates, Magyary and Amberg projected expenditure and revenue trend-lines for the next five years. If their projections are correct, city general fund expenditures will overtake city general revenues within the next four years.

The "revenue high" and "revenue low" trend-lines (even with increased sales tax revenues from a revitalized Plaza factored in) are depressingly similar in amount and slope. Magyary pointed out that most of the city's major revenue sources are stable and will not fluctuate much up or down in the

next few years. He said there is no "magic bullet," such as increased sales tax revenues, that will alter this fact.

Magyary and Amberg factored in such things as Bay Area Consumer Price Index estimated highs and lows, workers' compensation estimates, staff costs and estimated salary savings.

Sales tax increases from a reconstructed Plaza were estimated at \$300,000 in fiscal year 2002-2003 and adjusted for inflation thereafter. Payments to the general fund from the suspended Redevelopment Agency were estimated at \$300,000 to \$335,000 in each of the next three years.

"Projections at best are difficult since predicting accurately the economic future is virtually impossible," Magyary and Amberg said in their report to the committee. They emphasized that "the intent of these projections" was to show trends and not to "predict absolute numbers for any given year."

If their projections are accurate, El Cerrito will sooner or later be in a fiscal bind. "We wanted to get a message to council before they voted on the budget," Magyary said at the meet-

ing.

He said the trend-lines revealed an "untenable situation" and that even with the lowest of estimated expenditures and the highest of estimated revenues "you're going to cross the curve at some point" and the city will be in deficit operation. "That date can move closer or further—but regardless—at some point they're going to cross," Magyary said about the revenue/expenditure lines. He said that if things are done right this year "we have a little bit of breathing room," but that if fiscal changes are not made for the "long-haul" there will be big problems in the future.

At a City Council budget session the week before, Magyary and Amberg presented their findings and projections to the council. "I suspect a number of councilmembers are quite shocked to see what the future looks like," Magyary said about that meeting. "We've told them, essentially, what the bad news is—now they're either going to do the reasonable thing or they're not." Magyary told his colleagues on the Committee of the Whole.

On the question of what, if any, tax measure to recommend to El Cerrito's

voters, committee members considered various tax measure options, a "pay-as-you-go" measure, re-authorizing clauses, and the establishment of an ongoing Financial Advisory Committee.

The possibility of recommending a bond measure seemed to be ruled out by consensus while a pay-as-you-go tax measure received the most attention.

Magyary put forth a "modest proposal" and suggested a pay-as-you-go, "less than Measure H" tax measure with a renewable four-year sunset clause (five years for the first renewal) and a Financial Advisory Committee watchdog group.

Magyary said the tax could be made permanent at some point in the future by a vote of the people.

Committee member Bob Winslow suggested a two-year sunset clause on a pay-as-you-go tax.

"People of El Cerrito don't mind paying taxes, but the last 15 years, what we've had on the council, has taken all that away," Winslow asserted.

Committee member Athan Magganas said that people may be "looking perhaps for something much simpler this time around."

Magganas suggested a tax measure "that would encompass maybe two or three projects and a limited expenditure—on a trial basis—or maybe as a first step of this longer term plan."

A new Portola soccer field is a matter dear to Magganas' heart, but other committee members insisted that costs and agreements between the city and the school district, which owns the field, have to be pinned down.

"If you want this tax measure on the ballot and to pass—you're not going to get it with a blank check that says 'we don't know what it's going to cost and nobody has signed,'" Magyary told Magganas.

"You're going to have to get a signed statement from somebody saying this soccer field is going to do this—it's going to cost this much—and this is what the city is going to pay—and this is what the school district is going to pay," he said. "If you don't have that—wait until the next ground."

No decisions were made and the committee will probably be discussing taxes and possible tax measures for some time before any official recommendations are made to the City Council.

City pledges financial support for soccer field

City matches school district with \$150,000 commitment for field at Portola

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO—The right of citizens to petition their government

while wearing neat uniforms was vigorously demonstrated at Monday's City Council meeting. Nearly 40 kids and adults showed up to demand the city join with the school district to build a soccer field at Portola Middle School. Wearing red and black uniforms of the El Cerrito Soccer Club, several youngsters pleaded with the council to fund a field for the increasingly popular sport.

It was the latest of a half-dozen times parents and kids have showed up in force at council meetings during the last few years to ask for a field—and this time something dif-

ferent happened. The council voted unanimously to match the West Contra Costa Unified School District's

See SOCCER, Page A6

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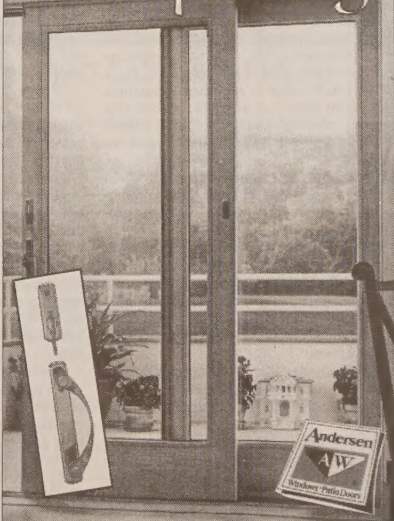
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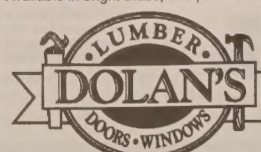
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Opinion

VIEWPOINT

Plaza proposal not all it could have been

By Steve Price

EL CERRITO PLANNING COMMISSIONER

As a Planning Commissioner, I wish to explain my vote against the Plaza property owners' plan for the Plaza.

The property owners claimed that their project was a hybrid project, part auto-oriented and part pedestrian-friendly.

I have realized for some time that a hybrid project was the most that the city could expect from these owners, and that something as thoroughly pedestrian-friendly as the Prince of Wales Summer Workshop plan was not something that was likely. Nevertheless, I feel that the present plan of the owners has too little that is pedestrian-friendly to warrant my vote.

The owners claim that they would prefer to develop more intensely, that large parking lots are not the most productive use of the land, but that the national tenants that they are wooing to locate at the Plaza simply demand large parking fields in front of their buildings.

If that is the case, then the presence of those tenants should have been scaled back or located away from the more pedestrian-friendly uses. Some people think all this pedestrian-friendly development stuff is nice, but not really economically practical. Walnut Creek's experience suggests otherwise.

Walnut Creek has pursued a pedestrian-oriented development

strategy for its downtown. In March the West County Times ran an article entitled "Walnut Creek Swimming in Civic Cash: City Coffers are spilling over, taking in \$24 million more than the city spent, thanks to retail sales." The pedestrian-friendly development strategy succeeded and succeeded big.

The small amount of pedestrian-friendly development in the present plan has been a concession that has been very slow in coming from the present owners.

At the Planning Commission meeting, desperate merchants were pleading to move forward and accept this plan. It was a heart-rending scene, so voting against the plan was not easy. Besides, I see this plan as driven more by the parking demands of national tenants than the needs of small merchants.

I hope that the new streets shown in the plan that cut through the property will allow the property to evolve into something better in the future.

To its credit, the owners' plan has lined the street edge on Fairmount Avenue with shops. Fairmount Avenue has tremendous potential to be a commercial main street. It could be an exemplary BART-oriented commercial environment and I hope the city pursues a strategy to redevelop the avenue.

Nevertheless, the major part of the Plaza will be auto-oriented retail behind large parking lots and I couldn't bring myself to give it my vote.

Approving today instead of waiting for 'tomorrow' to come

By Peter Loubal

The El Cerrito Planning Commission's refurbished Plaza hearing proved that in the final analysis it's money, not ideology, that talks. The funniest moment came before the near unanimous approval vote. The Plaza architect handed out another site plan.

This one for a Plaza "maybe 50 years hence," proving his computer too, can replicate the planning commissariat's visions of a dense grid of boxes labelled "Residential, Department Store, Cinema." Just as appropriate would have been "Taj Mahal or Butterfly Garden." As grandpa used to say, "promises are for free."

Having cost us years and millions, our Urban Villagers can contemplate "Tomorrow's" Town-Center. The rest of us will, in our lifetime, get to park and shop at the new, very ordinary "Contemporary Plaza," thus generating the incremental taxes that dreams are made off. Or is it a chimera?

Benefits

The new Plaza is a \$30 million investment, for a total \$50 million to \$70 million property value. If the county assessor finds out, our moribund Redevelopment Agency may get hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual tax increments. We wish!

The owners project \$700,000 in annual sales tax to the city. Most residents would welcome the excitement of a thriving Plaza even more than the tax infusion, but it will be difficult for the close-by residents, with three to four million extra car trips jostling for parking.

A consultant was hired to make more moderate traffic projections, but that of course implies less money.

The agency gets \$45,000 "for the old EIR," to let this inconsistency slip by. What seems to have fallen between the cracks is the need to secure commitments from the owners and the city to make land and money available to mitigate impacts, should the Plaza be a super-success after all.

Lost opportunities (other than department store):

The owners talked of donating a strip along the Southern Plaza border for a creekside trail "if the city pays for it." This needs to be finalized as a commitment.

The chance to connect newly daylighted storm drains with year-round water flow not northward along the BART track, but southward and into the creek, has presumably been missed. If we had got it together and secured money available from non-city funds, we would now be designing a real creekside setting for the Farmer's Market.

Also gone is a pedestrian overpass connecting future BART and Plaza structures across Fairmount. While Bayfair gets millions in non-city funds to help BART users reach a shopping mall several blocks away, we could not parlay "our" \$6 million in Measure C funds into a proper connection between BART and the Plaza. This will be a problem we will regret in the future.

Lessons to be learned

The Plaza is a done deal, but the draft General Plan is our latest example of ideology-induced visioning, proposing to warehouse new residents in dense tenements right on San Pablo Avenue.

Charlie Oewel of Megatheater fame, still claims he can profitably put a five-story mixed-use structure on the Del Norte BART parking lot since "people will pay premium rent for an easy walk to transit."

Neglected is the fact the noise, commotion, crime, etc. of living between the avenue and the BART station are substantial drawbacks.

Many El Cerritos will question whether housing, whose property tax goes to the Redevelopment Agency, rather than to our General Fund, carries its weight taxwise.

Shouldn't BART stations be reserved mainly for transit, and the avenue for offices, hotels and similar, to induce the market to produce more housing and quality restaurants where it sees fit?

The Planning Commission could prove they absorbed their lesson on the supremacy of economics as they debate the draft General Plan, later this month. Don't hold your breath!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Concerns voiced over Marin Avenue plan

As a planner, a citizen concerned about the environment, an Albany resident for 20 years, and a bicyclist, I want to express my strong opposition to the proposal to add bicycle lanes to Marin Avenue by reducing traffic lanes.

The biggest problem is that the backups at stoplights will become substantial and will create air quality problems that will affect immediate neighbors and bicyclists, and of course children at the Marin School.

Secondly cars will seek alternative routes and begin to flood the neighborhood streets. This will be a special problem at the evening rush hour when dozens of children are out on the street and sidewalks playing.

As a person who often uses a bicycle for a variety of purposes in El Cerrito, Albany and Berkeley, I seldom find any need to travel on Marin Avenue.

There are plenty of quiet cross streets all over Albany, El Cerrito and Berkeley, as well as dedicated bicycle trails. We are foolish if we think we can eliminate the only efficient way for cars to travel from east to west in this part of the East Bay and not pay a heavy price for it.

Judith Innes
director, Institute of Urban
and Regional Development
professor, Department of City
and Regional Planning

Political opportunism: Proposition 187

Gov. Gray Davis and California democrats' opposition to Proposition 187, now held up in the 9th circuit court, is pure political opportunism. Their opposition to the measure is framed in demagoguery and open tolerance, if not embracement of illegal immigration.

For Davis and the state democrats know that being soft on illegal immigration assures them important voting blocks controlled by leftists and ethnic radicals.

In this cynical chase for votes, they mock the people of California for demanding, through Proposition 187, that the integrity of residence and citizenship within our borders be supported with effective enforcement.

Those who protest this open tolerance are demagogue as racists and intolerant by the measures opponents. They imply that enforcing laws against foreign citizens who violate them is bigotry.

With California already reeling under the strain of record numbers of illegal immigrants, Davis and the democrat's opportunism and mockery of immigration law can only serve to

further polarize the people of California.

Isaac Swartz
El Cerrito

More on steel foundry

Marc Albert's story on Pacific Steel Casting Company should be corrected to read that an incinerator was installed in 1998, and not 1989, at the West Berkeley site.

Many of those living under the cloud of PSC stacks are quite surprised to read about the new incinerator since a Bay Area Air Quality Management Board's "Unconditional Order of Abatement" has been in force to reduce emissions and public nuisance since the mid 1980s. Yet, last year, with the installation of the incinerator, PSC's sitewide emissions rose substantially.

In fact, particulates increased 70 percent, nitrous oxides 35 percent, and carbon monoxide over 80 percent, along with increases in formaldehyde, phenols, metals and organic compounds, when compared to the last annual air-emissions report in 1997.

The answer to the argument over whether the new equipment is an incinerator or a bake oven is simple. Bake ovens generally operate at 400 degrees-500 degrees F where as incinerators, typical burn at much higher temperatures, like the one at PSC which burns at 1400 F.

The emissions from their respective stacks is also quite different. Bake ovens produce large amounts of organics. This is reflected in the other bake ovens on site for mold and casting manufacturing. PSC's sitewide emissions for organics are over 37 tons annually.

PSC's incinerator is supposed to produce less than 90 pounds of organics, but will also generate increased amounts of other chemicals while processing 10,000 tons of sand annually.

It's doubtful that this new incinerator would have been allowed to operate if the community had been properly notified about the project.

This incinerator was virtually hidden from the public even though it was officially endorsed by Berkeley's mayor and the Economic Development Office. It even won a state business award. Now the incinerator project is being offered as a model for other Bay Area urban foundries.

It's no wonder that so few are willing to look at this pilot project critically, or to question its sustainability in any urban environment.

The questions raised in public discussions during the early 1980s resulted in some changes at PSC as they began to address the nuisance odors from the site.

However, the discussions about health impacts were simply deferred, and to date, no

complete health assessment has ever been completed.

This is the unanswered question of the abatement order, and is again raised by the public's discovery of the new incinerator. What is the potential for causing serious illness to those living and working around PSC from low-level and long term exposure?

Despite two decades of community focus, we unfortunately don't know much more about the atmosphere chemistry and dispersion, the exposure pathways, the chemical compositions, or the chemical byproducts associated with PSC's emissions.

Back in 1982, the medical and chemical issues were tabled for lack of scientific understanding. Today, we better understand the carcinogenic aspects of PSC's emissions and how low-level exposure affects health and human development.

It's about more than unpleasant odors; it's about the chemical we don't smell and their effects on human health! This is the missing piece in this failed regulatory process.

Frankly, there has never been a real commitment to the understanding of the health impacts of air emissions by PSC, or by BAAQMD.

Yet \$1 million was invested to install an incinerator, some of which was public money. BAAQMD, which originally stood with the Berkeley and Albany communities in addressing this issue, now chooses to hide behind PSC and some local officials. Moreover, a decade has passed since the Department of Health Services first suggested that a study and health assessment of PSC's emissions be undertaken.

Where is their completed health assessment, one which factors in the incinerator emissions?

And where is DHS now the PSC is requesting relief from BAAQMD's abatement order?

A health risk assessment must be conducted which directly addresses long-term, low-level exposures, and its effects on residents surrounding the facility. Let's begin with an ambient air station placed in the childcare facility next to PSC, and not for just one day, but long-term monitoring, so we can begin to really know the air quality impacts and human health risks from this foundry. This is the least that is owed to our community.

Finally, the waste incinerator at PSC is much like the old trash burners found in most residential backyards of the 1950s.

We stopped burning our residential trash long ago. Now, we must ask why the city of Berkeley allows BAAQMD, or more specifically, PSC, to burn its trash in the backyards of West Berkeley and Albany. Shut down the incinerator now!

L.A. Wood

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EDITOR • CHRIS TREADWAY

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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787



SANDY ASHLEY is well-established as an Albany signmaker, with her shop Design-a-Sign celebrating 10 years.

10th anniversary for Design-a-Sign

By Roxanne Wiley
Sandy Ashley, owner of Design-A-Sign, celebrates the 10th anniversary opening her store at 983 San Pablo Ave. She and her talented staff virtually make every kind of sign or banner. They custom manufacture anything from fleet graphics, window lettering and redwood signs to 50-foot banners that go across the street.

They have done many signs in Albany, El Cerrito and Berkeley. You probably have seen their work at Unifreddi's Bakery, Alta Bates Hospital, Prudential California Realty, local YMCA's and UC Berkeley.

They also make metal, plastic or wood corporate logos and identification for interior or exterior applications. Sandy has displayed many of her design types in the window of the number of Commerce, please come to view a sampling of her work. Design-A-Sign customers are truly pleased. Sandy says that half of her customers are previously satisfied customers. That says a lot about the work they do, don't you think?

Fourth of July at Memorial Park

Fourth of July! If you have not re-

ALBANY CHAMBER

served a booth for the July 4 celebration you still have time, just call 526-7590. Remember, this will be an old fashioned fun day for the whole family!!! Please come and join us at the Memorial Park starting with the Lions Club delicious pancake breakfast at 7:30 a.m. in the Veteran's Memorial Building.

The festivities start at 9 a.m. with Baseball Game #1 and Car Show

■ At 10, Puppet Show #1 and a Walk-a-thon.

■ At 10:30, the Pet Show.

■ At 11 Puppet Show #2 and a Band #1.

■ At noon the Official Ceremony.

■ At 12:30, Juggling and the Chamber Ice Cream give away.

■ At 1:30, Family Games and Band #2.

■ At 2:30, Baseball Game #2 and the Lions Watermelon-eating Contest

■ and at 3 p.m., the fun and games will end.

Time for school board leadership

By Glen Price

The following statement is one I had planned to make last week at our school board meeting prior to it being prematurely adjourned.

Tonight, I need to make a short statement concerning our negotiations with employees and teachers. Why? Because today, the situation is beyond grave — we are in crisis.

And the sad thing is that the advent and worsening of this crisis could have been avoided had this board acted prudently and shown positive leadership with our administrative staff and bargaining team.

These negotiations should have been over last winter or earlier this spring at the latest.

However, the lack of leadership displayed by this board came into sharpest focus over the last few weeks.

As reported by the media, our board recently received a settlement offer from an independent state mediator.

At the time, our superintendent was out of town and Gov. Gray Davis had just released a disappointing budget proposal so we asked for one week to respond.

The mediator agreed. We asked staff to analyze the proposal. By

way of background, for some months I have been attempting to make the point that we will never achieve the kinds of gains we need to make unless we restructure our district's budget.

Our district has the unfortunate distinction of being number 1 in the state in percent of budget spent on central administrative expenses. (See <http://www.igc.org/west-county/050799.htm>.)

The bottom line is that in order to set a true priority on teaching and learning and site maintenance we have to cut administrative expenses.

A week after we received the mediator's proposal, I presented the board with a proposal for how to make the cuts we needed.

The proposal included conditions in the range of the mediator's settlement and encompassed budget work that would have provided for similar proposals being made to all bargaining units and all employees.

The board embraced this proposal and asked staff to operationalize it.

The offer was communicated to the mediator only to have the board withdraw it several days later.

We simply cannot afford business as usual. The board has to have the guts to make the hard choices.

I therefore publicly ask my board

WEST COUNTY SCHOOL WATCH

colleagues to reconsider the mediator's proposal.

Let's restructure our budget to place the highest priority on school sites. We can do it if we have the courage.

We're all here tonight because of our commitment to public education. I ask you to look within yourselves for the strength to continue to organize ... to continue to serve our children.

Ultimately, our ability to move this district forward in the kind of restructuring it desperately needs will depend on a great deal of hard political work to bring forward a board with the capability of providing leadership to staff.

Glen Price is a member of the WCCUSD school board; the opinions and views expressed in West County School Watch are his own and do not reflect official views or positions of the school board or WCCUSD unless otherwise noted.

Back issues of West County School Watch and other sundry items can be found on the West County School Watch web site: <http://www.igc.org/westcounty/>

OBITUARY

Donna Dowling, longtime crossing guard, dies at 48

Donna Dowling, who served as a crossing guard at the busy intersection of Cornell and Marin Streets for 25 years, died of lung cancer April 29 at age 48.

Ms. Dowling graduated from Albany High School in 1969 and went on to earn an AA Degree from Merritt College. Soon after graduation, she went to work for the City of Albany as a crossing guard.

"Donna really loved children," her father Edward said. "She helped kids cross the street, then — when they grew up — she helped their children across the same intersection."

Born and raised in Albany, Ms. Dowling lived with her parents — just one block from the intersection she guarded — until her untimely death. In addition to her service protecting young children as they went to and from school, she was also known for her love of quilting and bingo games.

Ms. Dowling suffered from lung cancer for a year, a disease that forced her to periodically take time off of work. Nevertheless, she dutifully led young children across the street until three months before her passing. She is survived by her father Edward, mother Mary, and brother Dennis.

ALBANY PTA NEWS

By Kay Weinstein

Albany PTA Council

June 23, Planning Meeting for 1999-2000 School Year; for location and agenda items, call Karen Carlson-Olson at 524-7004.

Albany High School

■ **SCRIP Orders:** Support AHS by buying Safeway, Andronico's or Lucky certificates. Call Linda Okamoto at 525-6782 or Belinda Lum at 528-2429

■ June 11, Graduation, 8 p.m., Berkeley Community Theater

■ June 11, Grad Night Cruise, Midnight

■ June 14, PTA Meeting, 7:15 p.m., AHS Library (rescheduled from June 7 due to election)

Albany Middle School

■ **SCRIP Orders:** Support AMS by buying Safeway certificates. Call Karen Moss at 526-2018 or Janet Nichols at 526-6259

■ June 11, 8th Grade Promotion, 4 p.m., Berkeley Community Theater

■ June 12, PTA Packing Day and BBQ. Volunteers please call Maria Elena Martinez and Peter Rosset at 528-4282

Cornell Elementary School

June 11, 5th Grade Culmination

Marin Elementary School

June 11, 5th Grade Culmination

July 4 Celebration at Memorial Park

Fundraising booths available to local groups. Contact Jon Ely at City Hall.

AUSD Board of Education

June 15, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

June 29, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

AUSD District Calendar

Friday June 11, Last Day of 1998-1999 School Year. Have a Great Summer!

Tuesday Sept. 7, First Day of 1999-2000 School Year

Items? Call Kay Weinstein at 525-0363 or email: kayweinstein@yahoo.com

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JUNE EVENTS AT GATHERING TRIBES

June 11 & 12: Santo Domingo Jewelry Show & Lecture by Dr. Rita Yokoi. Dr. Rita Yokoi, leading American Indian jewelry historian and dealer, will lecture on Saturday, June 12, 9 a.m. The topic will be "The Heart of American Indian Jewelry." She will be exhibiting her collection of jewelry for sale on Friday, June 11, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., & Saturday, June 12, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. An RSVP for the lecture is advised.

June 19: Zuni Fetish Show. Diane & Janet from Beyond Tradition will be bringing their extensive collection of fetishes for sale, along with their stories about the carvers. Fetishes from some of the premier carving families at Zuni Pueblo will be available.

June 26; Pacific Northwest Art Show. Ira Jay from Dancing Dog Traders will be bringing his extensive collection of Pacific Northwest Coast art for sale. Mr. Jay deals exclusively with this art form and will be available to answer questions.

GREAT NEW SHIPMENTS!

- Special collection of coral jewelry
- New selection of fetishes
- Lakota knife sheaths & quilled feathers
- Mata Ortiz Pottery

RECOMMENDED BOOK:

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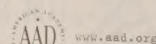
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Contra Costa board rejects 'band-aid' fix of libraries

BAY CITY NEWS

MARTINEZ — The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors rejected a proposal Tuesday to spend about \$1 million from the general fund on the county's ailing library system.

Supervisor Gayle Uilkema's proposal would have put library funding on the agenda for discussion at next month's budget talks to take advantage of the "robust economic times" reflected in higher general fund revenues.

The appropriation was suggested as a way to tide over the library's 23 branches until March, when a library tax measure could be on the county ballot. Last month a regional library board decided to ask the Board of Supervisors to put a sales tax increase on the ballot to pay for libraries — with a sunset provision to phase it out after several years.

Similar measures have failed, the latest last year and the board has still not acted on placing the measure onto the ballot.

Uilkema said she could not guarantee that the "interim" funding amount would be \$1 million. She said it would depend on how well it competes with other spending priorities at the July 21-23 budget discussions.

"One million dollars is not going to save the libraries," she said.

A number of city officials from El Cerrito, San Pablo and elsewhere spoke in favor of Uilkema's proposal, as did the Contra Costa Taxpayers Association. Association Executive Vice President John Wolfe said he thought it was time the county resume its historic funding levels for the library, which he said had dropped abruptly in 1993 when the state began taking property tax revenues from counties.

Wolfe said his group's support for the \$1 million idea does not extend to the library ballot measure, however, which would increase taxes.

He said the sales tax proposal would give the county library nearly \$10 million a year, an amount his group fought last year as too much. John Gioia asked if Wolfe's group could at least remain neutral should a ballot measure appear next year, to "let voters decide," just as he said they had when they raised the majority requirement for tax increases to two-thirds.

But Supervisor Donna Gerber said Uilkema's proposal ignored the "real funding problem" and called the amount a "pitifully poor pittance." She compared it to \$3,000 that county school children raised for libraries from their own piggy

banks in April. She said cities should "act as a group" in league with the county to find a permanent funding solution. She said she had worked hard to keep cities in her district from "seceding" and starting their own libraries.

She said Uilkema's proposal also might wrongly suggest that the general fund has surplus millions to fix this and other problems that in some cases are as deserving of general fund dollars.

After her proposal lost by one vote, Uilkema said she would bring it up again next month when Supervisor Mark DeSaulnier is present.

In a separate item, the supervisors introduced a new draft of its Children and Families First Commission ordinance for spending state tobacco tax dollars on preschool programs.



CHESS CHAMPS, left to right: Andrew Yun, Nazee Moghadam, Jason Yun, Ahmad Moghadam with chess Teacher, Mark Brown. Not pictured: Alternate Mahnoosh Moghadam.

Kensington School chess team takes first

The Kensington Elementary School Chess Team! Kensington qualified to enter the 13th annual "Berkeley Chess School" team championships and won first place at the May 22 event at Hillside School in Berkeley. There are about 80 schools affiliated with the Berkeley Chess School in the Bay Area and 46 schools formed teams from private and public schools.

Trophies were awarded for the first three elementary schools with the highest score, Best Girl's Game and Score, Best Game (recorded) and Perfect Score. All students received participation trophies.

The Kensington Chess Team members are Nazee Moghadam, 5th grade; Jason Yun, 5th grade; Ahmad Moghadam, 4th grade; Andrew Moghadam, 2nd grade; and alternate Mahnoosh Moghadam, 1st grade.

In addition Jason Yun and Ahmad Moghadam were two of the eight students to win the Perfect Score trophies and Nazee Moghadam was only girl to win the Girls' Best Game and Game trophy.

Win

FROM PAGE A1

tion is June 30. Forms can be picked up at the school district office, community center or senior center.

The tax will pay for staff members, including teachers, librarians and counselors. The additional teachers would help the 3,000-student dis-

at all seven schools, according to the terms of the measure.

Deep cuts in state funding in 1990 forced the district to take severe measures. It dropped some electives at the high school and middle school. It reduced the number of counselors and teachers for physical education and English as a Second Language classes. It also eliminated the post of director of curriculum and reduced

and there were no arguments against it on the ballot.

Although the measure had no official opposition, it was the target of an anonymous flier found on windshields around town Monday that claimed the school district would be handed "a blank check."

Backers were cautious before Tuesday's vote, saying they have not forgotten the last school-tax measure — an \$87 parcel tax in 1987 that passed by just 38 votes despite an aggressive campaign about the need to repair and upgrade facilities.

At several poll sites late Tuesday, voters exiting the polls said they had mixed feelings about the measure. Some said they backed the tax as a critical boost for schools while others remained unsure.

Lorraine Gaskin, 69, still had questions about how the district spent funds from the 1987 tax. The 30-year Albany resident said Measure A is loosely written and gives the district a blank check. The \$120 parcel tax has no ending date.

"There are no specifics," said Gaskin, whose ties to the district end Friday with the graduation of her grandson from Albany High. "Nobody says exactly what we're going to do with it or at what grade levels."

The school board must account annually for its spending of the tax revenues, according to the wording of the measure.

Supporters stressed that schools could not rely on the state for help, despite vows by Gov. Gray Davis to inject more funding into education.

Soccer

FROM PAGE A3

trict expand its classes in foreign language, math, science, music and art \$150,000 pledge for a new soccer field at Portola.

"I would like to make a motion that we take out of the capital reserve \$150,000 to match the school district's \$150,000 toward a soccer field at Portola," said Councilman Norman La Force at Monday's charged meeting. The motion was amended by Councilman Mark Friedman to say that the council makes a "commitment to find \$150,000 for the soccer field" without specifying from where the funds will come. But \$150,000 for the soccer field will definitely be in the 1999-2000 city budget to be approved later this month, La Force confirmed after the meeting.

The vote wasn't taken until later in the evening after many of the parents and youngsters had left the meeting. "Call up all those kids and tell them that they got it," Friedman said.

Speaker after speaker of various ages pleaded with the council to fund the field. Luci Moreira, an El Cerrito parent of two, said children need local places to play sports and that a Portola soccer field would help provide a sense of "neighborhood." Parent Athan Magganias said he has been working since the early 1990s on a plan to convert the Portola blacktop to a soccer field. He said such a play field "could become a jewel" for the city and that the school district is eager to replace the asphalt with a "green area."

Eight ("and three-quarters") year-old Isabel Angell of the El Cerrito Soccer Club said "when we use the field we promise to keep it clean."

Bruce Greenlee, former club president and current "under 16" coach of the El Cerrito Soccer Club, said that limited field space could lead to "fairly open hostility" between soccer and baseball programs. "This will be the last spring of peace if there is no soccer-specific field in El Cerrito," Greenlee warned the council. "We have no place to play in the spring."

Thirteen-year-old soccer player Kelly Griffin complained about having to play at an uneven Richmond field where players have twisted and even broken their ankles.

Councilman Larry Damon said "there is no question about the need" for a soccer field, but added that there needed to be "more specificity." He suggested a joint meeting with the city's Park and Recreation Commission, the soccer club and the council to see if there was a "viable path forward."

Mayor Gina Brusatori said that cost estimates for a Portola soccer field range from \$150,000 to "seven or eight hundred thousand."

She said school district officials should also attend the proposed joint meeting. Brusatori put forward two policy recommendations Monday for the upcoming fiscal year. One recommendation would result in funds being available that could be used to fund a few specific public projects — possibly including \$150,000 "for the Portola field for soccer, baseball and other sports."

La Force has worked with parents and school officials and others for some time to find ways to develop and fund the Portola soccer field. He said it was not an issue of lack of specificity and that the school district has agreed to provide \$150,000 towards the field. La Force said district specifications call for artificial turf field costing between \$600,000 and \$700,000 to build. He said it would not be the old "Astroturf"-type surface.

clerical and accounting staff.

Supporters of the tax included Mayor Peggy Thomsen, and Karen Carlson-Olson, president of the Albany PTA Council. No formal opposition emerged against Measure A.

"I wholeheartedly support this — you got my vote — I'm going to work to see that this happens" La Force told the parents and children before the council vote. "This is one of the most consistent groups of people packing this room — wanting something done in this city and demonstrating a real need that has to be filled," La Force said. He told his colleagues: "We need to finally say we're going to do it."

According to Magganias, who has pushed for a new field at many public meetings, the work isn't over yet. "Obviously, it will take more money," he said.

Magganias said soccer parents, city and school district officials are meeting this week to decide how to proceed from here. "The school district is going to maybe do something — maybe we can produce something

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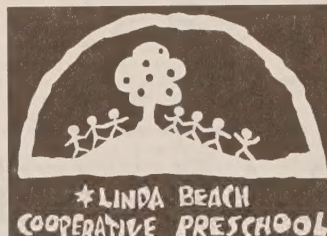
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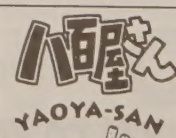
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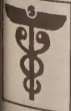
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A final 'Top o' the mornin' to ye to Oakland's Al Kelley

Memorial Day was even sadder than usual for me this year, because that was the day I got the news that Al Kelley had died.

Al was a native son of Oakland, something of which he was intensely proud. He was proud, too, of his Irish heritage. Nobody can remember a day when he wasn't wearing a bit o' the green. And to this day, I can still hear him greeting me with a jaunty "Martin, me lad! Top o' the mornin' to ye!"

He was also proud of his family—his wife Jini; their son Christopher, an Episcopal priest and teacher in South Bend, Ind.; son Glen, a farmer in Santa Rosa; daughter Margaret, supervising naturalist at Tilden Park; and their three adored grandchildren Wesley, Elizabeth and Andrew.

And did I mention that he was also a heckuva nice guy?

But what I will remember most is that Al was an authentic war hero. He was only a kid when he joined the Marines shortly after Pearl Harbor, and he was still only 23 when the war ended on Sept. 2, 1945.

On that day, Al was a first lieutenant commanding the Marine honor guard on the battleship Missouri, which was anchored in Tokyo Bay to accept the Japanese surren-

Snapshots

By Martin Snapp

der. He had already survived several major battles and a kamikaze attack. (He later had a chunk of the kamikaze's wing made into a set of lieutenant's bars, which he presented to Jini.)

The Missouri's deck was crammed with VIPs that day, including Adm. Bull Halsey, Gen. Jonathan Wainwright and Gen. Douglas MacArthur. But none had a better view than Al, who, as commander of the Marine honor guard, was standing only a few feet away from MacArthur when he accepted the surrender.

"Ordinarily, I wouldn't have been in charge of the honor guard," Al told me. "I was the most junior officer on board. But the two guys above me had gone into Tokyo as part of the landing party, so that left me."

In fact, the Missouri wasn't even slated to be the site of the surrender.

"It was originally supposed to be aboard the Iowa," said Al. "But somebody happened to mention it to Harry Truman, and he said, 'Is something wrong with my boat?' He did

call it a 'boat,' too. 'Oh, would you prefer the Missouri, Mr. President?' 'You're Goddamn right I would!'"

You'd think Al would have been pumped up about his big assignment that historic day, but the truth is that he was scared stiff. He was still smarting over the bawling-out he had gotten a few days before, after his first encounter with the Japanese. To give you an idea of the mind-set at the time, here's how his official orders read:

United States Pacific Fleet, Third Fleet

Staff Memorandum

Subject: Receiving Japanese Emissary

Emissary will meet this formation 20 miles southeast of Oshima at 0800 hours. He will transfer to an American destroyer, which will further transfer him to Missouri in the usual manner. He will be met by the flag Lieutenant, 1st Lieutenant A.E.W. Kelley. There shall be no greetings exchanged other than required by the strictest formality. The Missouri will keep the appropriate parts of her battery trained on the Japanese ship at all times, prepared to destroy her in the event of any overt or treacherous act.

— Robert B. Carney, RAdm., Chief of Staff, U.S.S. Missouri.

All went well until Al started to frisk the Japanese emissary—a career Navy captain—for hidden weapons.

"All of a sudden I look at him and I'm thinking, 'This guy's old enough to be my father!'" said Al. "He's a four-striper, I'm a lousy first lieutenant, and I have power of life or death over this man! It was a helluva of a way to treat a guy with this kind of rank."

"So a few minutes later, when I saw he was having problems juggling all the stuff he was carrying, I held his overcoat for a minute. The next thing I heard was a voice booming, 'Kelley! What do you think you're doing?' It was a lieutenant commander on Admiral Halsey's staff. He chewed me out to within an inch of my life."

So on V-J day, Al was on his best behavior as he stood by the ramp, waiting to greet all the VIPs.

"The Navy band is supposed to play 'honors' according to your rank," he said. "If you're one star, you get one ruffle and flourish. If you're two stars, you get two, and so on. The most they ever play at one

time is four, which is for the president of the United States.

"Anyway, we had a guy with binoculars on deck, and his job was to watch the coxswain in each boat as it arrived. If the coxswain is on the ball, he signals to him how many stars are on board. Then he signals to me, and I signal to the chief leading the band."

"Well, the first boat to approach was Gen. Wainwright. He had two stars, so he was entitled to two ruffles and flourishes. Just as his boat was about to dock, another one came up at the same time. It was Shigamitsu, the Japanese emissary."

"Now, one of Shigamitsu's legs was artificial, so he had a heck of a time transferring off that little boat, with the waves moving up and down. So Wainwright extended his hand and helped the guy up—which is pretty amazing when you think how much he and his men suffered at Corregidor."

"Then the two of them proceeded up the ladder—which created a real problem for me. Should I order honors for Wainwright? They might think it was for Shigamitsu, and then I'd be in real trouble. I looked at the chief of the Navy band, frantically signaling with my eyes, 'What do we

do?' I got a cold look back from saying, 'Kid, you're wearing metal; I'm wearing the cloth.' It's a decision."

"So I made my choice. I called guys to attention. There was no sent Arms. Taking his cue from the chief called the band to attention and there were no ruffles and flourishes. So Wainwright never got honors."

"The history books say that MacArthur saw Wainwright being Japanese emissary, he got mad and said, 'No honors for Wainwright; it's not true. The guy who made the decision was a lousy first lieutenant you're talkin' to him.'"

After the war, Al returned to land, where he went into business, a home mortgage loan broker, financing many of his fellow G.I.s set about rebuilding their lives.

He was also extremely active in the community, including the Merritt Breakfast Club (which served as president in 1980), Navy League, the Children's Hospital Research Institute, the other obtain the Missouri or another class battleship for the Bay Area.

See SNAPP, Page A8

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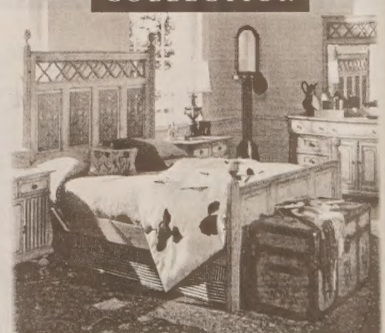
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Albany seniors have until June 30 to apply for parcel tax exemption

Applications are available now if you wish to apply for an exemption from the parcel tax just approved by Measure A.

For the tax year 1999-2000, applications must be submitted by June 30, 1999, due to deadline constraints imposed on the school district by the measure.

If you will be 65 years or older by June 30, 1999 and own your primary residence in Albany, you are eligible for an exemption this year.

Please call 559-6503 at the school district office to request an application or to get information regarding applying for the exemption in the future.

Approval

FROM PAGE A1

ated their Phase I design to the commission and the public. Designing the new Plaza as "market street" and of a "hybrid" design, Holley said construction costs for Phase I would initially be about \$3 million.

Holley suggested that urban village, mid-use elements may be developed on the southern "Bilak" side of the Plaza sometime in the future. "I can't promise that," Holley concluded.

"What we can produce, is a product that is going to generate \$1,000 a year in annual retail sales revenue to the city," Holley said. "I'm willing to bet \$30 million that we can produce that."

Phase I will result in up to 227,000 square feet of newly constructed commercial space, replacing about 100,000 square feet that will be demolished. It encompasses about 17 acres of the 32-acre Plaza.

There will be a 67,000-square-foot combination Lucky grocery store, a drug store on the east side of the Plaza, and a series of smaller stores and shops along Fairmount Avenue to the north.

This "urban edge" design, the planners pointed out, will continue the Plaza from Fairmount, with sidewalks, small shops, street lighting and landscaped walkways.

Holley said "about 23 percent," or about 50,000 square feet of Phase I, designed for "urban village — village" type tenants.

Coffee shops, book stores, flower shops, dress shops — those kinds of things," he said.

There are also sites for three 10,000-square-foot to 30,000-square-foot stores just north of the planned Savon store and in the north section of Phase I. Courtyards are planned — one with an outdoor fountain.

Monument signs are planned on Fairmount and San Pablo streets and a 34-foot-tall "illumination sculpture" is planned near the center of the Plaza in a traffic circle. A 115-foot-tall tower originally planned for the roundabout was not in the new plan. Geometric Plaza's new design as a "urban shopping center look."

Security along the Ohlone Greenway remained a concern of the commission. Some relatively minor

changes in the owners' plan were made. The possibility of security cameras and the presence of windows—real and false—facing the Greenway was discussed. Some high rear windows are part of the current Lucky-Savon design, and "false windows" or "display windows" will be added to the rear of the adjacent building.

A proposed wrought iron-type fence between the Greenway and the Plaza was removed from the plan.

Consultant Mehmet Noyan said the owners hope to be constructing Phase I and II at the same time and have set October 2000 as an "optimistic" grand reopening date.

Phillips could not say when construction will begin on the new Plaza, but he said he supposed it would start within the next couple of months.

Phillips said Phase II deliberations will focus on Cerrito Creek, access to the Greenway and what uses might occupy south-side Plaza buildings of more than 5,000 square feet.

Emotions surfaced during the public comment part of the meeting; commissioners were accused of making up their minds prior to the site plan presentation. Speaker after speaker urged the commission to approve the plan.

Although many indicated less-than-enthusiastic support for the owners' plan, most people at the meeting seemed to agree with one speaker who declared "It's time to move ahead."

Former City Council member and Mayor Roy Mespelt received enthusiastic applause from the audience after he said that if "the decision to reject" had already been made, it was a "travesty upon our democratic system of government." Mespelt told commissioners to "Use your head."

"I would like to say—if somebody already knows how I'm going to vote—would you please tell me," said Commissioner Kathleen McKinley to chuckles from the audience.

Vice Chair Julie Rogers, who led last week's meeting because Chairman Carl Groch was out of town on business, said the commission was trying to "craft something that is going to serve our community—not only in October of 200—but in the following five and 10 years."

Commissioner Steve Price cast the lone no vote. "The city is getting some things from this plan that I think will be beneficial to the community, but I just didn't think it was getting enough to warrant a unanimous vote," he said later.

are their buddies who didn't come back. They remember the vibrant young men—"Pride of Our Nation," as Franklin D. Roosevelt so rightly called them—who never had a chance to come home and get married and have babies and build careers.

They're right about their buddies, but they're wrong about themselves. To the generations that have come after them, these men are heroes indeed. As Lincoln said, "The brave men who struggled here have consecrated it far beyond our poor power to add or detract."

How can we thank these men? How can we ever repay what they did for us? Again, Lincoln said it best: "It is for us to carry on the noble work for which they gave the last full measure of devotion."

And that noble work is America itself. Our duty is to hand the next generation a country that's in better shape than the one that was handed to us. Just as the G.I.s like Al, and the Rosie the Riveters like Jini did.

My only fear—and it's a fear that haunts my whole generation—is that, in the words of the old Roman orator, "We are not the men our fathers were." (Or our mothers, either.)

And a lot of World War II vets agree with me. They don't think we're up to the job. They're saddened by our shallowness, our selfishness, our squalid culture, and our lack of patriotism. They think we've bungled the legacy they bought for us at such terrible cost.

As Al once said to me, "When the next big crisis comes around, you guys won't be able to handle it. I'm glad I won't be around to see it."

Then he added, "If you really want to honor us, prove me wrong."

So long, Al. Top o' the mornin' to ye. Semper Fi.

Phone Martin Snapp at (510) 273-9039 or e-mail him at catman@california.com

Pool

FROM PAGE A1

the six proposals with the help of Korts and local architect Michael Woldemar.

The committee is scheduled to meet and interview the top two candidates Friday. Korts said it is not yet known whether the pool should be repaired or reconstructed.

Cost estimates are very rough, but Korts said she suspects the figure to be over \$1 million.

There are differing views about how and when to pay for pool renovation, but most people seem to agree that something has to be done if the swim center is to continue serving the community.

Last week's tour of the facility with Korts revealed many of the "un-

'It looks nice until you really look.'

—Monica Korts, El Cerrito Community Services Manager

funded needs" that plague the pool.

"It looks nice until you really look," Korts said.

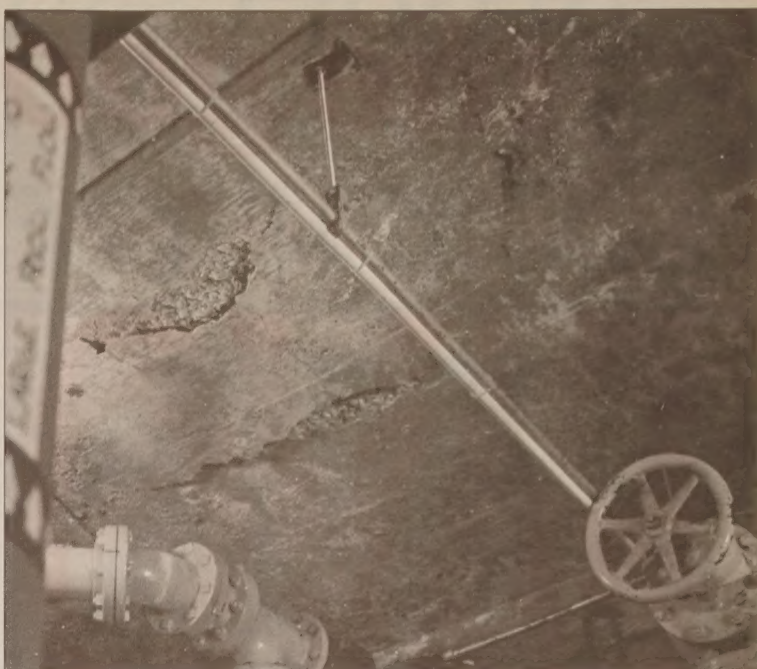
Pointing to large paving and cement sections of the deck surrounding the larger of the center's two pools, Korts indicated several defects.

"It just ripples" she said of the deck paving.

An observer noticed several cracks and uneven areas and cement patches in the paving around both pools. Tiles were missing from pool corners and Korts pointed out pool lights hanging down from their fittings. "They just fall out," Korts said.

She pointed to a rusty diving board, pointed to missing pieces of concrete, and opened up the old sand filter system that is obsolete.

Korts said any major work at the center will trigger public health and



THE MOST OBVIOUS damage is in an area users of the El Cerrito pool don't see. The pump room, located underground, suffers from water damage, falling concrete and operates with an obsolete filtering system.

safety laws that will require a new filtration system for the pools.

"Those were state-of-the-art 30 years ago," she said looking down into the sand filter pits. "They don't use sand filters anymore, I believe."

In addition to the nearly antique pump room, there is a huge old boiler and pipes encased in asbestos in the under-workings of the center. Korts said the sump pump failed two years ago, flooding the pump room.

She said much of the center's electrical conduit is poorly insulated. Pointing to raised sections of concrete near the larger pool, Korts said "these are trip hazards."

In the men's shower room, Korts pointed out sections of the wooden ceiling that are rotted and crumbling.

"The whole roof is like that, even though it's covered with paint," she said.

Of the overall swim center condition, Korts said "It's maintained but it needs to be repaired." Korts said visiting developers told her that El Cerrito has the "best bandaged" pools they have ever seen.

At times, Korts' frustration with

trying to keep the 37-year-old swim center patched together and functioning came out during the tour.

Facetiously, she said the pools could be drained and converted to a skateboard park.

"I guess that's an alternate use," she joked.

Korts said she and her staff are trying to "hold out until we get some more money here, but it's touch and go."

While in the old pump room, Korts said "We could have something big happen and that would be it."

Eagle

FROM PAGE A1

catcher learned to play ball from his father. Baseball was in his bloodline—a thread spooled into the family DNA.

Eagle's father, Gary, played baseball when he was a teen-ager at Pinole Valley High School and taught Todd's uncle Corey how to hit and throw. Corey Eagle later became an All American at Sonoma State, and was selected Northern California College Player of the Year.

Both father and uncle played with Todd throughout his childhood.

"When I was young, in front of my house, I was playing Wiffle Ball every day," the 18-year-old said. "We made a lot of neighbors mad, hitting windows and knocking balls over their homes. But they're all pretty happy now."

At age 8, Eagle joined the Albany Little League. He credits a number of Little League coaches with his success, including Jack Rosano, Bob Onweller and Don August, who put Eagle into the league's major league classification at age 10.

The AHS senior remembered the first time he played catcher for his Little League team, the Giants.

"My coach, Mark Himmelstein, told me I had a pretty good arm," Eagle said. "At first, I was kinda closed-minded to the idea—having to catch baseballs all the time. But after a few days, it felt like home back there. And it was fun throwing runners out."

There are others Eagle wanted to thank.

"When I was in the 13-year-old

league, coach Tim Taylor helped me out a lot."

Eagle also expressed gratitude to Emery Phillips.

"He is one of the best coaches ever," he said. "After playing for him, things began to really take off."

And he didn't forget his high school coach, Josh "Ruddy" Freeman.

"He did a great job," Eagle said.

Looking back over hundreds of games and weeks spent on a baseball diamond, Eagle has nothing but fond memories—though he is concerned about changes in the Little League program.

"Jack Rosano coached the All Star Team when I was 12," Eagle said.

"He is one of a number of great coaches I had—a big inspiration and a tough guy. I think that's what you need as a player. You need discipline and coaches that know what they're talking about."

"There were some parents that complained he and others were too tough on the kids. But in my view, if you don't come ready to play and you can't handle getting yelled at, then you shouldn't be playing baseball in the first place."

Hard work pays off

Eagle is a baseball player, pure and simple. He practices at least two hours every day, goes to batting cages whenever possible, watches the pros on TV, and plays with his father and uncle and anyone else that loves the game.

Eagle also respects his coaches, men he credits for teaching him the fundamentals, self discipline, and the work ethic, things he believes are crucial if one wants to make a dream come true.

Devoutly religious, Eagle also be-

lieves that baseball gives him a great opportunity to have "some small impact" on others.

"I'm not a good speaker," Eagle said. "But playing baseball is kind of my way of showing people what the Lord has done for me."

"My greatest inspiration is God—and my mom," he said.

Eagle's mom and dad have always backed him up, even when others issued constant words of caution and questioned his dream. It was his mother that stood sentry on the front lines as many adults unwittingly attempted to sabotage his self confidence.

Todd's seventh-grade PE teacher kind of chastised me for encouraging Todd to believe he could succeed as a baseball player," said Eagle's mother, Suzie. "I told her I was not going to discourage him from going all the way and pursuing his dream. She really thought I was a very bad parent. But I have always been very proud of him—very proud that he has kept focused."

At a time when parents and teens watch as opportunities seem to vanish—in an era where young people have been told that the surest way to happiness is a practical career where they can make a lot of money—Eagle's mother encouraged him to pursue his baseball dream, regardless of what other people said.

"It's so rare and there is so little chance of such a dream coming true—everyone tells you that," Suzie Eagle said. "Everyone said he would get hurt. They wanted Todd to be 'sensible.'"

Eagle was sensible. Though his main focus has always been baseball, Eagle also managed to maintain a 3.6 grade point average. And even

now, under terms of his contract with the Phillies, Eagle is guaranteed four years of college.

The day after he graduates from Albany High School, Eagle will catch a plane to Clearwater, Fla., where he will play Class A ball for the Phillies.

"Like the scout (that signed him) said, 'I don't pick players to stay in the minor leagues,'" Gary Eagle said with pride. "He expects bigger and better things from him. This is the greatest thing that could ever happen."

"I told Todd, 'They'll be chipping away at your dream,'" Eagle's mother said about the next step in his career. "Hopefully, Todd will remain focused. They'll be telling him, 'You just don't have what it takes.' And he will have to let all of that bounce off of him."

"But his success hasn't been based on self will," she said. "His convictions helped him to get where he is. And they will continue to help him, I'm sure."

Eagle gives credit to just about everybody for his success, though he rarely mentions himself. He's a team player—a catcher. And though he's in on every play, you wouldn't know it just listening to him.

It is not every day that a high school senior gets drafted to play baseball, especially from a small town like Albany.

It is not every day that you meet someone that has a vision, either, and is willing to do what it takes to make it come true.

Is it unrealistic for young people to pursue their dreams these days? Ask Todd Eagle.

But you better do it before Saturday. That's when he's going to play baseball. For an organization known as the Philadelphia Phillies.

Landfill

FROM PAGE A1

from the puckered lips of several Bulb residents, a sound an onlooker might make when witness to a threat.

Albany resident John Lionheart addressed the council and said after a natural disaster, when people lose their homes it is a "great tragedy."

The federal government then comes in with aid programs, as do churches, charities, the Red Cross and local governments, he said.

"And these people (at the Bulb) are losing their homes and communities as well," he said, "yet not much is happening."

Lionheart, a general contractor, also works part-time as a disaster housing inspector.

After the meeting, he said members of the council "mean well, but are just in over their heads. They all have kind of a glazed look in their eyes like they just wish everything would go away."

Ashby Dancy, a Bulb resident, stepped up to the microphone during the session and accused the city and Operation Dignity of "misusing" funds allocated for the people living on the landfill.

"It doesn't take \$13,000 for some-

one to drive a truck to the landfill every day," he said, referring to Operation Dignity. "Just go down there (to the program) for a whole entire day and you'll see nobody goes there," he said later.

"It's like a referral agency. They refer you to another place that refers you to another place and this goes on and on and on. You don't get on no housing list. I told them four months ago I've been on a list for four years."

"We're continuing to do what we have been doing, providing social services to those interested in utilizing them," Assistant City Administrator Ann Ritzma said Tuesday when asked about the accusations.

"We have four different providers down there. Each one has a different set of referrals for people," she said.

"Some referrals are straight into transitional housing where people have 90 to 120 days to save money for rent, and receive alcohol and job counseling if necessary."

Soon debate at the council meeting was limited to the budgetary issue. Landfill residents slowly filtered out the back door and into the night, trekking down Buchanan Avenue toward their homes.

Before they departed, many announced there would be a rally to support residents at the landfill next

week. "Watch for the signs," they said. The rally is set for Saturday at noon at the Bulb.

All proposals concerning the operating budget and proposed 1999-2000 capital improvement program were later unanimously adopted by the council.

Other business

A long laundry list of agenda items was easily approved by council members, though discussions did ensue from time to time.

During a hearing to consider "adjustments" to the Master Fee Schedule, resident Evan Flavell suggested reducing fees for home-work permits, contending it is good for people to work out of their homes since it reduces traffic and encourages more people to work in town.

"To be charged for a (home) business license as much as a business on San Pablo Avenue is unfair," he said.

Flavell also asked the council to consider charging business license fees to sub-contractors only on jobs "that are more than \$15,000."

He said to do a "little remodeling job" in a bathroom could require as many as four sub-contractors to get a permit—a situation that encourages people to do the work "illegally," he said.

Councilman Ed McManus, meanwhile, said he thought the pay-

ment people are often charged for a "response fee" from the fire department was unfair.

Both McManus and Councilman John Ely said the fee "crossed the line" between what a city could recover from residents for services rendered and the basic services cities by their nature must provide.

The council later voted 4-1 to approve the proposed master fee schedule, with the exception of the response fee, which was deleted. Good was the lone nay vote.

During an open microphone session, resident Dario Meniketti urged the city to "clean up" the Ohlone Greenway and to make better, more thorough public reports regarding the expenditures of public funds. He urged the council to eliminate the personnel officer position, claiming it was "not necessary—at least it wasn't before" people started coming and going, he said.

Meniketti also declared that The Journal had not been delivered to many neighborhoods in town "for three weeks now," and urged the council "to do something about it," a suggestion that caused at least one member of the audience to squirm.

The council announced it would meet again July 6, then take its annual summer break until Aug. 23.

James Carter can be reached by email at JCarter1@cctimes.com

the good guys!

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Real Estate & Home

The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclairian, The Piedmonter

June 10-11, 1999

Section B

Ant Watch Argentine ants live here too, and they're hungry [B7]

Open Homes Your guide to the hottest properties in the East Bay Area [B12]

Red Oak Gallery holds everyday world to lens

Heather Hiett exhibit aids local charities

Red Oak Staff

In "The Unexpected Everyday," photographer Heather Hiett presents an exhibit of bold, colorful, tightly cropped photographs which force the viewer to take a new look at the world around us.

Simple, ordinary objects such as flowers, bridges, piers, tail lights and water are transformed into surreal images, presented in a sublime and dreamlike fashion. The work reflects Hiett's philosophy and observations of the world we live in.

"In this culture, we never seem to be satisfied, even though most of us live very full, busy lives. Constantly focused on the next event, the next purchase, the better car, house, job, partner, etc. we fail to see what we have right now," Hiett said.

"With these images of the everyday I have attempted to slow the mind down and present an alternate view. There is much happening below the surface that we don't often see."



YELLOW TULIPS by Heather Hiett.

See HIETT, Page B9



HEATHER HIETT PHOTOS

THE WORLD OF THE ORDINARY takes a twist through the camera's lens at the Red Oak Gallery this month.

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6644 HEARTWOOD DRIVE
MONTCLAIR TRADITIONAL...\$322,000
Pleasant Montclair setting, 3BR/1BA, large living room, hardwood floors, separate dining room, back patio garden.
Norm Robinow



4330 ADELAIDE STREET - REDWOOD HEIGHTS - BIG VIEW...\$299,000
Cute house too! Old home w/ updated kitchen, enclosed sun porch, 2BR/2BA, flexible floor plan. Great space, dogs, landscaping, etc.
Donna Conroy

OPEN SUN. 2-4:30

OAKLAND

6738 BANNING...\$459,000
Dramatic Montclair Home: City sophisticated. Room for grand piano & art work. Serene outlook updated kit./breakfast area level out to patio. 3+BA/2BA Ruby Ng/Karen Lum

1557 TRESTLE GLEN...\$449,000
Soaring beamed ceilings, gleaming hwd floors, updated kit. & BA, formal liv & din. rms, lg plus rm & 3BR/2BA. Dell Orr

3917 LINCOLN AVENUE...\$189,000
Laurel Starter! 2BR, fresh & bright, wood floors, lg eat-in kit, basement storage, wrap deck, new roof. Vicky Faulk

2909 57TH STREET...\$179,900
Spacious 2BR+ den near Mills College. Karen Brand

PIEDMONT

1023 OAKLAND AVE...\$389,000
Sunny 3BR/1.5BA w/ gleaming hwd flrs, +1BR/1BA w/ sep ent. Lani Dy

BERKELEY

3040 FULTON...\$585,000
Gorgeous Brownshingle duplex with 2 more units in rear. Linda Gerson

1379 GRIZZLY PEAK...\$399,000
Bay views! 3+BR, 2.5BA Bobby Giarratana

2419 10TH STREET...\$322,500
Duplex with large yard. The Longs

1553 SACRAMENTO...\$319,500
Remodeled kitchen, charming home, great location. Chris Cohn

2518 DANA...\$225,000
Fixer duplex. Holly Rose

1812 1/2 DWIGHT...\$210,000
Sunfilled, 2BR townhouse, newer construction. The Longs

EL CERRITO

6030 AVILA...\$149,000
Move-in condition, hardwood floors, 2BR/1BA. Cheryl Cahn



BERKELEY VICTORIAN DUPLEX +2...\$585,000
Two units in gorgeous Victorian, two more in the rear. Near Elwood & downtown. Upstairs Victorian unit owner occupied, spacious & sunfilled. Rear units both 2BR. Lovely yard & garden. Lg basement, garage & street parking. Many upgrades & beautifully maintained.



SUNSETS OVER THE BAY...\$399,000
Sip your coffee on the deck of this home in the Berkeley hills. Three bdrm plus bonus room off master suite & 2.5 bath. And a remodeled kitchen, and deep yard with level terrace.

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ENCHANTING BERKELEY CRAFTSMAN DUPLEX...\$585,000
Charm! Artistry! Elegant woodwork! Vintage high ceilings! Spacious rooms! This one has it all. Spectacular yard, stunning landscaping. Plus perfect "Walk To" No. Ber. Loc. On the practical side, garages for 2 cars, loads of storage, and new foundation.

PRIVATE RETREAT, ENCHANTED GARDEN, BAY VIEWS...\$339,000
A little slice of heaven in the Berkeley hills! Bay, city and bridge views, dazzling sunsets, 2BR/1BA plus detached studio with BA. Faux painting, hardwood floors & basement.

WEST BERKELEY DUPLEX...\$322,500
JUST LISTED! Super convenient area, near 4th Street shops, restaurants, & transportation. Both units 2BR, spacious, partially remodeled. Deep yard. Upstairs has deck & is vacant.

BERKELEY URBAN OASIS...\$319,500
JUST LISTED! Super charm, great location, outdoor delight! 3BR, remodeled bath and a remodeled kitchen with Corian counters, elegant cabinetry & upscale appliances. Brick patio, lush landscaping & artist's studio/potting shed. Near Monterey Market & BART.

GOURMET GHETTO VICTORIAN CONDO...\$319,000
One of four units. Beautifully updated throughout, glowing with sunlight. 2BR, 1BA, plus formal dining, refinished hardwood floors, deck, lovely backyard and parking.

BEAUTIFULLY UPDATED BERKELEY RETREAT...\$310,000
A multitude of sunny spaces! 3BR, 2BA with incredible upstairs master suite with fireplace, sunny sleeping loft with deck. Separate study, formal dining & breakfast room. Sweet, private patio & garden plus large tandem garage.

BAY VIEWS FROM MONTCLAIR...\$310,000
2 story home in top area. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, hwd flrs & lg master suite w/ deck.

NORTH BERKELEY BROWNSHINGLE...\$265,000
Walk to North Berkeley shops and restaurant! Full of charm with hwd floors throughout. 1++ bdrms, 1+ baths.

BERKELEY TOWNHOUSE...\$210,000
JUST LISTED! Spacious sun-filled, 2BR+ den home near Mills College. Tastefully decorated, remodeled kitchen, refinished floors.

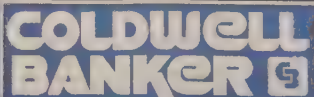
ENTERTAIN YOUR FRIENDS...\$179,900
JUST LISTED! Spacious sun-filled, 2BR+ den home near Mills College. Tastefully decorated, remodeled kitchen, refinished floors.

Inventory is at an all time low. If you have been thinking of selling, call for a consultation on the value of your home, and strategies on maximizing your equity.

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EVENTS

Weekend of June 12, 13

The Golden State Lily Society will host the largest lily show in California. Come for Ikebana flower arrangements, display of judged hybrid Asiatic and Oriental lilies, growing information, sales, door prizes and refreshments. Free admission, \$2 parking, noon to 5 p.m. at Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. 510-232-8041.

Wednesday, June 16

Art Historian Kendall Brown presents work from his new book, including gardens in Golden Gate Park, San Mateo, Montecito, and Hayward. Japanese Style Gardens of the Pacific West Coast. 7 p.m. Builders Booksstore, 1817 Fourth Street, Berkeley. 510 845 6874. Free.

Monday, June 21

Hawaiian night. The Orchid Society of California invites you to a special meeting at 7:30 p.m. Calvin Miyamoto, of the prestigious Miyamoto Orchids of Hawaii, will be the featured speaker. His topic will be "The Art of Hybridizing." Miyamoto and his famous father, Miya, have made more than 5,000 crosses of cattleyas, dendrobiums and vandaceous orchids. The Society is making the June meeting a Hawaiian night. Lake Merritt Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. Call Pauline at 925-757-9684 evenings or weekends.

Wednesday, June 23

LIFE Dream House Architect Sarah Susanka presents work from her recent book on small houses, particularly pertinent to our Bay Area lots. The Not So Big House. 7 p.m. Builders Booksstore, 1817 Fourth Street, Berkeley. 510 845 6874. Free.

Saturday, June 26

Kitchen and bath seminar. Free seminar on what's new and sizzling for kitchen and bath and how to put it all together; brochures and product literature, light refreshments. 10 a.m. to noon. Capstone Cabinetry and Design, 6522 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. Space limited to 25 people; call to reserve a space. 510-654-0661. Easy street parking.

Thursday, July 1

Oakland building inspector Redwood

Kardon explains some of the quandaries of the electrical code. He also owns and maintains codecheck.com, a Web site devoted to the code check manuals Code Check Electrical. 7 p.m. Builders Booksstore, 1817 Fourth Street, Berkeley. 510 845 6874. Free.

Sunday, July 25 through Tuesday, July 27

Wildflower and landscape photography. Three-day workshop led by professional photographer Steven Rulley. Focuses on Hope Valley and Carson Pass. For beginners or advanced amateurs. Learn about the techniques and problems unique to outdoor photography. For details and equipment list, call 925-449-2245.

Ongoing

Credit counseling. Consumer Credit Counseling Service, a nonprofit community service organization in Oakland has a series of free workshops. Registration is mandatory. For more information call (800) 501-SAVE.

Discover Oakland's changing skyline, landmarks, churches and high-rises on one of the free guided walking tours sponsored by the city's Community and Economic Development Agency. Call 510-238-3234.

Sick plant clinic. Join University of California pathologist Dr. Robert Raabe from 9 a.m. to noon the first Saturday of every month for a free Sick Plant Clinic at the UC Botanical Gardens, 200 Centennial Dr. in Berkeley. Drop in with a piece of a sick or a dying plant and Dr. Raabe will diagnose the problem. Call 510-643-2755.

We accept event announcements on a space-available basis. Fax listings for this section to 510-339-4066, write 5707 Redwood Rd., Oakland 94619 or send e-mail to jsnyder1@cctimes.com.

New construction loans sturdy alternative

Prospective home owners across the Bay Area are finding more reasons to buy a lot and build a custom home there.

Buying and building allows the prospective home owner to get more bang for the buck. It is quite often cheaper to buy a residential lot at a good price and build a house with the help of a construction loan than buying a resale residence.

Also, experience has shown that this approach nets much faster equity gains in the short run compared to the traditional alternative of buying a resale residence.

How are they doing it? As the strong economy has blessed many area corporations with increased earnings, many individuals are using their yearly bonus checks or are cashing in their company stock options as down payment for their custom home-build projects.

Many consider this a shrewd way to diversify their assets and hedge

Mortgage Notes

By Shaun Aghili



Shaun Aghili

"...This can be a shrewd way to diversify your assets and hedge against a major market correction..."

their bets in case of a major stock market correction.

But there are financing problems. Most lenders shy away from lot loans and the few who do not often require a substantial down payment from 30 percent to 50 percent.

Moreover, the closing costs asso-

ciated with getting a lot, as construction and finally a "take out" (regular mortgage) loans was exorbitant.

Times are changing! In 1998, National City Mortgage introduced a brand new residential lot financing program to go hand in hand with its One Time Close Construction loan.

This lot program offers up to an incredible 90 percent financing on residential lots that meet the lender's criteria. The program's current rate is prime plus 1/2 percent.

It is an interest-only loan with a maximum term of 30 months and is designed to allow a borrower to close escrow on a lot in order to prepare for the construction loan process.

The program has no pre-payment penalties and a rather competitive closing costs structure since the lender may credit you a part of the closing costs when you apply with them for the construction financing. National City's One Time Close

(OTC) construction financing has the advantage of getting conventional take out loan at no additional cost to the borrower, in most instances, avoids the hassle and additional costs of getting the construction and the take out loan in two transactions. OTC allows up to 90 percent financing subject to the amount. It also offers a no cash verification version for borrowers with ample cash and excellent credit.

These two programs are designed for borrowers who intend to build in the custom home after the build time. In 1999, National City has also introduced a "construction-financing program" for small builders and investors.

Shaun Aghili, CFP is a senior officer and a lot and construction specialist in Walnut Creek. He may reach him at 925-210-0000. shaunaghili@juno.com

Bay Area luxury home values near record high

First Republic Bank

The average value of a Bay Area luxury home in the first quarter of 1999 was \$1,463,841 — a 12.5 percent increase over a year ago and virtually the same as the record \$1,467,673 average value reached at the end of 1998.

"During that period, the average luxury home value has increased by

almost \$325,000," said Katherine August-deWilde, chief operating officer of First Republic Bank.

"Land value has surpassed all expectations as buyers made wealthy by the stock market are coming into the market and offering hundreds of thousands of dollars over asking price for properties."



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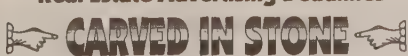
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NO EXCEPTIONS

If you work for a nonprofit, profit from 403(b) savings plan

If you work for a nonprofit organization such as a public school, nonprofit hospital, church or other charitable institution you can benefit from retirement plan alternatives. One plan available only to employees of nonprofit organizations is called a 403(b), which provides an attractive way to save for retirement and reduce taxes.

What is a 403(b) retirement plan?

A 403(b) is a voluntary tax-advantaged retirement savings program exclusively designed for nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations and educational institutions. Your employer can tell you if you are eligible to participate.

How does a 403(b) plan work?

Contributions to the plan are made on a pre-tax basis through a salary reduction agreement between

Money Matters

By Leila Gough



Leila Gough

"Like an IRA, potential earnings in your account can grow tax-deferred until they are withdrawn..."

you and your employer. Do not be put off by "salary reduction." It simply means a portion of your salary will go into your retirement account instead of showing up on your paycheck. Because the amount of your contributions is not considered salary, you will not have to pay any taxes on that money until you with-

draw it from the plan.

Like an Individual Retirement Account, any potential earnings in your account can grow tax deferred until they are withdrawn. In addition, your employer also may contribute to the plan.

How much am I allowed to contribute?

You can contribute only a specified amount annually through salary reduction. The exact amount you can contribute depends on a number of factors, including your years of service, contributions already made under a 403(b) arrangement and contributions to other retirement plans made on your behalf. Consult your tax adviser for help in determining the maximum contribution you can make.

When may I begin to receive distributions from my account?

You may begin to receive distributions from your account, without penalty, anytime after you reach age 59 1/2, separate from service with your employer (at age 55 and older), become disabled or experience financial hardship. Other distributions may be allowed under special circumstances (consult your tax adviser.) Income taxes are due upon withdrawal and some withdrawals prior to age 59 1/2 may be subject to a 10 percent IRS penalty.

When must I begin taking distributions from my 403(b)?

Generally, the rule for taking mandatory distributions from your 403(b) account is the same as for your IRA. However, if you had a 403(b) account balance before 1987, you may be allowed to defer distributions of those pre-1987 contributions until a later date — in most cases, age 75.

If I am dissatisfied with my employer's investment selections, can I transfer my account balance into an investment of my choice?

Yes. First you can petition your employer to add more attractive investment choices to the plan or replace the existing investment choices. Secondly, if your 403(b) is being funded with only the contribution you make, you have the option of working with your financial consultant to choose more appropriate investments. However, be sure to consider any surrender charges or distribution fees that may apply when transferring your account balance. You should understand that on-

going salary-reduction contributions must be directed to the employer selected investment options.

If you work for a nonprofit organization, one of the best ways to have a secure retirement may be to take advantage of your employer's 403(b) plan.

Leila Gough is an associate vice president, investments, with A.G. Edwards in Oakland. She helps clients define and reach their investment goals. She can be reached at 510-273-8851 and by E-mail at leila.gough@wll.net.

Freddie Mac: Mortgage rates soar in latest week

Weekly survey shows 30-year fixed-rates approach September 12, 1997 mark

McLEAN, VA — In Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage (FRM) averaged 7.41 percent, with an average 1.0 point, for the week ending June 5, 1999, up considerably from last week's average of 7.23 percent. A year ago the 30-year FRM averaged 7.05 percent. The 30-year FRM has not been higher since the week ending September 12, 1997 when it averaged 7.53 percent.

The rate for 1-year Treasury-indexed adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 5.85 percent this week, with an average 1.1 points, up from last week's average of 5.73 percent.

A year ago, the 1-year ARM averaged 5.68 percent. The 1-year ARM has not been higher since the week ending March 12, 1999 when it av-

eraged 5.88 percent.

The average for 15-year FRMs this week is 7.04 percent, with an average 1.0 point, up as well from last week's average of 6.84 percent. A year ago, the 15-year FRM averaged 6.70 percent.

This is the highest the 15-year FRM has been since the week ending May 1, 1998 when it averaged 6.85 percent. The 15-year FRM has not been this high since the week ending September 12, 1997 when it averaged 7.07 percent.

"New home sales, up 9.2 percent in April, confirmed that the housing market continues to be strong, fueling concerns that the economy is growing too quickly," said Frank Nothaft, deputy chief economist for Freddie Mac.

"These concerns pushed mort-

gage rates higher this week. Consequently, Friday's employment report will be watched very closely for what it says about the strength of the economy in May."

Freddie Mac is a stockholder-owned corporation chartered by Congress in 1970 to create a continuous flow of funds to mortgage lenders. By supplying lenders with the money to make mortgages and packaging the mortgages into marketable securities, Freddie Mac sustains a stable mortgage credit system and reduces the mortgage rates paid by

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— Freddie Mac

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Montclair Fixer - New Listing!.....\$349,000
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LOIS C. JOHNSON ext. 226

Lovely Mediterranean Condo.....\$159,000
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Yes, this 'house' can talk — and keep records

No. 285 in a series of true experiences in real estate.

Kathy Crandall, an agent friend who works at the Prudential office on Telegraph in Berkeley, came to visit us recently. She brought with her a laptop computer and a new computer program — Kathy's own invention — for homeowners to keep track of house maintenance.

It took only a few minutes to see the great value in the program. It's well organized, uses attractive graphics and, best of all, it's easy to use.

"What a great idea!" we said as soon as we heard what Kathy had come up with. When Kathy left, she had our order for program disks, one for ourselves, others for friends and clients.

Kathy told us that the program is useful not only as a working reference, but also in that information can be printed out and used as part of an owner's disclosures when he sells.

This struck Anet and me as pure genius because it is very rare for a seller to have at his fingertips information about the systems of his house.

Owners frequently tell us, "I think the roof is five years old but I'll have to look it up ... I have the paperwork



By Tarpo and Talbert

somewhere."

I'm afraid I'm the same kind of homeowner. The receipts for all the work I've done exist, but getting to them is something else.

About eight years ago my husband and I bought my present house. It was in need. For a whole year we drank our morning coffee with workmen. Most of the front of the house, some ceilings and many interior walls were torn out and redone, the electricity and foundation upgraded, some windows and floors replaced.

A lot got done before we ran out of money and marriage; there is still more to do.

That year of work resulted in a 4-inch-fat file folder of receipts which

I moved to the basement a while ago because it was taking up so much space in my filing cabinet. Sometimes I need something from it, but as retrieval would involve leafing through every paper in the file, I don't even try.

Now armed with Kathy's program, I decided to get organized. Bravely, I got my file, went through every single receipt, then entered what I could into the program. Then I printed it out and gloated over it.

It's too bad I didn't have this program from the start when everything was fresh in my mind. Some information is lost forever.

Without going back through old checks and tax returns, I'll never know how much we paid for the electrical work. At least now I have a record, all in one easily-accessed spot, of the people who put in the shower door (recently needed for a client), the product we applied to the new wooden floors and notes about the size and source of the redwood siding.

"If this house could talk" really is a perfect way to quickly keep track of all kinds of things about a house: When the trees were pruned, the gutters cleaned and by whom; wallpaper pattern numbers and paint colors; appliance models and purchase

dates; water heater replacement and repairs, and so on.

There is a place in the program for every part of a house: the interior, exterior, electrical and plumbing, heating, appliances, mortgage and insurance, and home purchase info.

Subcategories for different rooms and equipment include general info and repairs, and so, for example, it's easy to note that a new furnace was installed on a certain date, how much it cost and who did the work, and later to enter the details on any repairs made to the furnace.

There's even a place to put the furnace company's phone number and, when entered, the number automatically appears as well in a separate phone/address directory.

I added some categories for my house such as water/fall pump, attic insulation bid (it's still needed) and water line. This last was gratifying to learn; until I went through the receipts, I'd forgotten that we had new water lines installed.

When Kathy came up with her house info idea, she joined with a couple of computer programmers, a venture capitalist, and a graphic designer — five people in all — to form Entice Software Inc. "If this house could talk" is their first product, re-

leased just a week ago. The group's goal was to produce software that anyone could use. They tried out the software themselves, of course, and asked friends to try it out too.

Kathy's mother, Mary, who lives in Florida, was one of the first to use the program. Until Kathy sent her mom "House," Mary had never touched a computer. But Mary is a very organized person and she liked the idea of having her house records on the computer, then being able to print them out, so she just plunged in.

Loading the disk was simple, she found; she had no trouble using the mouse or typing in her data. Her only complaint to her daughter resulted in changing the word headings to tabs. Mary hadn't understood that she could click on "bare" words;

clicking on pictures makes sense to her.

Mary likes the program in fact, that there have been when Kathy has called her now; she's in the middle of it on "House."

"If this house could talk," is available for \$19.95. It is sold only to those who are sure, will be giving it to others as housewarming gifts and to their seller clients as well.

You can see a demonstration of the program on the Internet. The names of Realtors from whom it can be obtained. The address: www.enticesoftware.com.

Pat Talbert and Anet Talbert are estate agents and area appraisers who also offer hourly real estate consulting and coaching. They can be reached at 510-653-2050.

Unclutter garage for uncluttered 'chi'

No. 2 in a series

WELCOME back for more feng shui. Last week in this space I explained the grid placed over our homes (Bagua) and its components: the front door of a house is usually in the middle of the house and is aligned to the gua called "career." From career we travel around the

eight sides, from knowledge to family to wealth to partnership to children to helpful people and then to the center for health. These sides represent the human qualities of life.

As a first step to creating change in your life, promise everyone anything to clean and organize the garage! In the United States, archi-

itects seem eager to face a huge garage to the street in the knowledge of helpful people/travel section. This garage catch-all room stifles these energies and creates blocks to your success.

Secondly, next time you drive home, take a good long look at the outside of your house. The entry to your dwelling represents you. Are

West Meets East

By Caroline Patrick

you telling the chi to please come in and support my being, keep me happy, calm and comfortable? Or are the shrubs dead or overgrown? Is the driveway cracked? Are the entryway and doorway hidden?

See FENG SHUI, Page B5

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Shown By Appointment

New Listing - Upper Oakmore
\$649,000

Elegant traditional w/gorgeous SF views, quality details, updated kit, hwd flrs., 2nd trpl in rumpus and beautiful yard w/gazebos. Cud-de-sac. By appt. only.
MARTHA SHIN 510-287-9806

Private Lakeside Prop.
\$2,800,000

Majestic oak tree setting. Poss ble vineyard borders pristine Las Trampas Regional Wilderness. Working stables boarding horses. Beautiful lake stocked with fish. Approx. 100+ acres in wife's name. Possible lot splits. Very motivated seller.
925-837-2200

1960 Victorian Estate
\$2,500,000

Beautifully restored. Former B&B. 5 acre + garden tea rm, majestic lib, au pair apt. Possible lot splits. Very motivated seller.
925-837-2200

Mediterranean "Villa"
\$1,510,000

On over 5 acres of Camino Tassajara. 4BR, 3.5BA, 4800 sq ft, wine cellar, pool, spa, waterfall. Hand-plastered walls. "Old World" charm.
925-837-2200

Brand New Construction
\$1,300,000

Lafayette home with 5BR, 5BA in a fabulous setting of ancient oaks & panoramic views. 4900 sq ft. Famous builder for quality & design. Grand & elegant feeling throughout.
925-837-2200

Blackhawk Country Club Estate
\$1,000,000

5+BR, 4BA and approx 5,000 sq. ft. between main house, bonus quarters & detached guest cottage. Beautifully landscaped. 56 ac lot on quiet serene court. Walk in sauna, oversized rock spa & quality features throughout. Just Listed. **TONY CHRISTIANI 925-837-2200**

New Westside Listing
\$819,910

Spacious 4200 sq ft home unique for the area w/ftt ceiling, grand piano sized LR & FDR to entertain a crowd. 5+BR including au pair suite, sep. fam rm, bonus rec rm, sun porch & pool. Lovely established neighborhood, 3 bks to town.
925-837-2200

The Best of Roundhill
\$789,000

On a 1/2 acre wooded lot in desired country club, remod & updated 3700+ sqft. custom Alamo home. Gorgeous gourmet kit, remod. baths. A great functional flr plan. **GINNY REEVES 925-837-2200**

Large Lot & Home
\$699,950

4BR in Danville with 3.5 BA + retreat over 3300 sq. ft. marble floors, hwd flr tile, neutral cream carpet, 3FPs, vaulted ceilings, lg center island kit, built in safe, laundry chute & other custom features. Lg lot 44 acres backs to open space. Must See! **PAM BERCE 925-837-2200**

Rich in Detail & Steeped in History
\$688,000

Authentic colonial that has been loving restored & graciously updated providing every convenience imaginable. Elegant rms., library w/built-ins, cooks' kit, w/Wolf range, fam rm, "great room" with one-of-a-kind ceiling, master w/itng rm. Call for showing. **NAHID NASSIRI 510-531-1670**

Small 4 Unit Medical Building
\$449,000

Perfect owner user, very E-Z maint. Low rents. near 58080. Owner will carry loan. **HAL MARCUS 510-287-5686 or 925-532-5955**

Tri Plex
\$398,000

In popular Glenview, family friendly neighborhood, close to shops, schools, SF transp. 3BR owner's unit, 2BR 1BA & 1BR 1BA. Each unit has own charm, hwd flrs, arched windows, tall trees vistas.
NAHID NASSIRI 510-531-1670

Eclectic Spanish Med. in Sequoyah Heights
\$349,000

Gorgeous arches & tiles surround this Spanish Med. home in a great neighborhood. 2 car garage. Over 2,000 sq. ft. of living space. Incredible value.
NONI ROBINSON 510-287-2570

Charming English Cottage
\$228,000

Lovely Oakmore traditional w/fabulous garden deck! New w/tp w/accss, cozy lg, FDR. **PATRICIA BENNETT 510-482-9000**

Attention Apartment Investors
\$268,000

Diamond district triplex + additional unit. Great income. Call on the one. Could be money maker. **TERESA CHAN 510-287-2580**

Charming Rustic Home in Sequoyah
\$229,000

This 2+BR 1.5BA has beautiful hwd flrs., frpl & 2 car garage, located in a great neighborhood. Large lot with mature trees in the back.
NONI ROBINSON 510-287-2570

Laurel Family Home
\$189,500

Spacious home on quiet tree lined street, 3BR 2BA, p. upgrades. Master bedroom suite, level yard, lots of space, charm & upgrades.
ARNOLD MUELLER 510-530-6099

Cute & Clean
\$155,000

1+BR, 1BA duplex, breakfast rm., dining rm., garage converted into a 2nd BR, nicely done. **NONI ROBINSON 510-287-2570**

Live In & Rent the Other
\$153,500

Charming craftsman on lg lot w/1BR rental. Desirable Laurel area, private yard, good rental area. Priced to sell.
ARNOLD MUELLER 510-530-6099

Home Plus Income
\$139,000

Nice for owner occupancy & rental of 2nd unit. This duplex has grt apt appeal. Don't miss this opportunity! **ROSEMARY GREENE 510-635-9842**

Priced to Sell!
\$98,900

Build your custom home in Montclair on this upslope lot! Camogie design, group plans avail. **CHARLENE CLAYBAUGH 510-287-9585**

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Montclair Better Homes Realty is offering newly licensed agents to join our team of professionals. Work as a Broker's assistant while you learn the business, and get paid. Call Gloria for an interview. **(510) 339-8400**

Feng Shui

FROM PAGE B4

...and, please, please, use your front door. Americans love the convenience of the inside garage door —

...this you?

Let's take a little tour of how you enter your home ... do you step out of the car into the dry water dish or trip over the dry mat and maybe send it flying to who knows where? To feed those little mice, I guess.

Next comes the recycle bins blocking the door, then the broom across your path and you stumble face-first into the laundry room and the smell of well-worn tennis shoes jumps up to greet you as you enter the laundry. You hear someone screaming at the dogs, kids, neighbors or anyone who will listen — goodness, it's you!

Now, we've finally entered the kitchen (it is easier to gain weight when we see the kitchen as the first room entered). Your keys are hanging from your mouth while you carry grocery bags in each hand. The phone is ringing; before you can collect yourself, the person calling with a job offer hangs up. Even if you had reached the phone in time, you'd have been too harried to make a good impression.

Once more, with feeling

Now let's replay this scene: You drive into the garage and then walk back out the large garage door. It closes as you start towards the front door (call this a meditation of tip-toeing through the tulips if necessary).

The wind chimes greet your senses with their musical notes, showing the chi again the harmonious way to enter into the career section of the home.

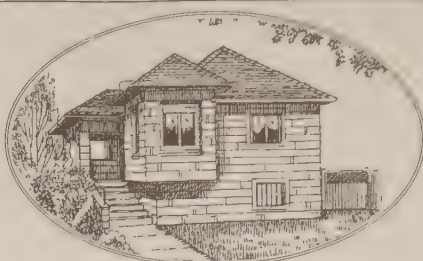
A statue of an animal "guards" the house while you are away. The welcome mat is cheerful. The door is painted blue/black (black is the color

of career representing water, the element associated with career) or black pots with bright flowers or both. Gold brass house numbers proudly shows who you are.

Next week: Let's open the door and go inside. Meet me as we travel to the knowledge gua section.

Caroline Patrick is a Feng Shui consultant, artist and herbalist. She combines these skills in a unique practice. Her business address is 131 First St. #G, Benicia. Call 707-748-1127.

Hills tip:
To place a classified ad, call 339-8777



3032 TREMONT STREET • BERKELEY

1905 fixer-upper with brick foundation. Hardwood floors, coved ceilings, built-in china cabinet. 3 bedrooms/1 bath.

\$139,000

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CLASSIC SHINGLE CRAFTSMAN

Panoramic Bay views, spacious sunny rooms, original architectural details including built-in bookcases in living room & dining rm cabinetry. 2+ bdrm, 1 bath up, 1 bdrm & 1/2 bath on entry level. Spacious office downstairs. Remodeled kitchen. Large yard. **Open Sun. 2-4:30, 900 Santa Barbara Road, Berkeley** Ann Amola Plant 527-2700x27



SUNNY & BRIGHT ALBANY HOME

A warm & comfortable 2 bdrm, 1 bath home located near Solano Ave. You will be charmed by the original details such as a bay window, built-ins & fireplace in the living room. Wood floors, central heat. A peaceful back yard & a huge basement are just a few of the highlights of this lovely home. **Open Sun. 2-4:30, 839 Curtis St., Albany** Ken Katz, 527-2700x40

BERKELEY CHARM ... EL CERRITO PRICE!

Summery 3 bdrm cottage with exquisite private garden & decks. Living room w/vaulted ceilings, brick fireplace, formal dining rm, hardwood floors, updated eat-in kitchen. Full basement w/ workshop, attached garage. New roof, retrofit. On pleasant street near BART & shops. **6519 Knott Ave, El Cerrito. Open Sun. 2-4:30, Carole Berger 549-3441**

MAGICAL SECRET GARDEN

This 2+ bdrm home has been tastefully remodeled; features include updated kitchen, refinished hwd flrs, new paint, slate fireplace, redwood mouldings & custom lighting. Large family room & separate den open to fabulous garden w/redwood fences & arbors, hot tub, deck, lighting, sprinklers, flagstone & a variety of trees & exotic plants. **6550 Arlington Blvd., Richmond View. Open Sun. 2-4, Todd Hodson 527-9111, 559-2915**

BEAUTIFUL AND SPACIOUS

Two bedroom home with fabulous floor plan, formal dining room, gorgeous hardwood floors, handsome fireplace and breakfast nook. Detached 2-car garage and nicely landscaped yard. **465 36th St., Richmond N&E, Open Sun. 2-4, Dee Plunkett 527-9111, 559-2933.**

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\$699,000

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EL CERRITO

NEW LISTING IN MIRA VISTA

Adorable 4BR, 2BA 5616 Ludwig (Open Sun. 2-5) Country Kitchen. Dining area. Family Room. large 1 car garage. yard. hardwood floors under carpet. Len Navarro (510) 222-9772 ext. 124

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY/ New Price!

2 Story home, close to all amenities, with 2BR, 1BA, both up and downstairs. Upstairs has new carpet paint and upgraded kitchen/baths. Unlimited potential, possible rental or in-law. #9906653 Michele Manzoni (510) 222-2644

PANORAMIC VIEW LOTS

Unobstructed view of 2 Bridges & San Francisco in prestigious E.C. Neighborhood. All utilities are ready. Sarah Lo (510) 235-3983

NEW LISTING / ABOVE FATAPPLES

Golden Gate Views from living room, dining & master BR, approx. 3119 sq. ft. 4BR, 3BA. Huge rumpus room w/wet bar, large storage areas, 2 fireplaces, 2-car attached garage, built-in BBQ, deck, huge kitchen. #99016370 Paul Triplet (510) 309-4050

GOLDEN GATE VIEW/ NEW LISTING

4+BR, 2.5BA, formal dining room, family room, 2 car garage, laundry room, central heat. #99012351 Sarah Lo (510) 235-3983

ALBANY

RARE CONDO IN GREAT LOCATION

3BR with Master suite, 2BA, 1 car attached garage, new paint and carpet, \$100 association fee. This is one unit in a 4 unit building. #99011547 Sarah Lo (510) 235-3983

RICHMOND VIEW

SPARKLING AND SPACIOUS

6439 Claremont, large yard, deck, and hot tub
Cynthia Burke (800) 262-0949

STATELY MIRA VISTA

TRADITIONAL NEW LISTING

4BR, 2.25BA, 450 Mount (Open Sun. 2-4) "as is" Over 2200 sq. ft., Grand Living room, formal dining rm, breakfast rm, large kitchen, partial basement, attic storage, 2 car-detached garage, hardwood thru-out. This home has been in the same family since 1929. Carla Della Zoppa (510) 222-4005

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Properties

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Four two bedroom units in historic Point Richmond! Close to marinas, restaurants, cafes and other recreation, this prime building is located just off of I-580, minutes from Marin and Berkeley. This is a great opportunity for investment in a growing market. **Offered at \$395,000**

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NEW LISTING!



1015 Santa Fe, Albany

Beautifully Remodeled 3 Bedroom, New Kitchen w/Granite Counters & Oak Cabinets, New Bath, Lovely Garden, Near Solano Ave. Shops!

ALBANY

Bright & Sunny! Great Location! **\$235,000**
Adorable 2BD/1BA Walk to Solano Ave. Shops!

Charming MacGregor Mediterranean

Features 2+BD/1BA, Formal Dining, Hardwood Floors & Detached Studio Room!

HERCULES

Dramatic Refugio Canyon View Home

Fabulous 3BD/2.5BA Townhouse on Secluded Cul-De-Sac, Features Master Suite & Newer Construction. **\$229,000**

KENSINGTON

Panoramic View Contemporary

Dramatic Large 4BD/4BA Home Features 2 Fireplaces, Family Room, Garage & More! **\$450,000**

108 Arlington, Kensington

Lovely 3+BD/2BD Mediterranean w/Remodeled Kitchen, Located On Incredible 200 Ft. Deep Level Lot! **\$439,000**

1509 Martin L. King, Jr. Way, Berkeley

Bright & Sunny 2+BD/1BA Home with Legal Cottage in Back. Walk to Walnut Square! **\$305,000**

6883 Cutting, El Cerrito

Spacious Mediterranean 3BD/2.5BA View Home with Hardwood Floors, Plus Room & 1BD/2BA Off Garage. **\$339,000**

By Appointment

RICHMOND ANNEX

Large, Large, Large Ranch Style Home

Approximately 1800 Sqft 3+ Bedroom, 3Bath Home with Family Room & More. **\$235,000**

Immaculate Home, Good Extra Spaces

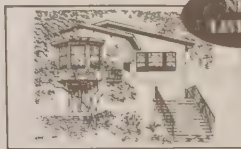
This 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath Features Big Dining & Kitchen, 1930's Brick Fireplace, Garage, Family Room, Office & More! **\$167,000**

SAN LEANDRO

Bright & Airy! Open Floorplan!

Contemporary 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath Condominium Vaulted Ceiling, Balconies. Near Transportation. **\$129,900**

NEW LISTING!



587 Valle Vista, Grandlake

Classic Rose Garden Traditional 4BD/2BA on 3 levels. Features Refinished Hwd Floors, Newly painted Interior, Excellent In-Law Potential & Much More! **\$325,000**

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Albany Duplex

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Open Floorplan, High Ceilings, 2BD/2BA plus Commercial Space & Much More! **\$485,000**

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Risks, benefits in buying renovation

Wouldn't it be wonderful to buy a charming older home, in a great neighborhood, that's like new inside?

Houses like this exist, but they're usually hard to find. You tend to see more of them when the real estate market is strong and renovating a house for profit makes good sense from the speculator's standpoint. To make such a project worthwhile, the renovator must buy the fix-up house at a price that allows for a tasteful remodel on a realistic budget.

When the house is renovated and sold, there must be enough money left after deducting the costs of sale and improvement expenses for the investors to pay themselves for their efforts. Otherwise, it doesn't make economic sense to do the project at all.

From the buyer's standpoint, are there any risks in buying such a property?

There are certainly some benefits, such as buying a like-new home in an older established neighborhood. Most new homes are in housing developments that aren't as ideally located as some of the more desirable older neighborhoods. Another plus is that the buyers don't have to do the fix-up work themselves. So as long as the speculators did a good

Real Estate Forum

By Dian Hymer



Dian Hymer

"As long as the speculators did a good job, there may be less risk than there would be in buying any other house."

job, there may be no more risk, and perhaps less, than there would be buying any other house.

■ **Investigate the house and the quality of the renovation work before you commit to buying the property.** Part of the investigation should include asking the seller to provide you with a comprehensive list of all the work he did.

■ **Make sure the seller is specific.** For example, "upgraded plumbing" could mean that he simply changed a run on pipe from galvanized to copper when he redid a shower. Don't assume that "upgraded" means that a system was completely redone.

■ **Hire a home inspector to do a comprehensive inspection of the property.** Ideally this would be done after you have the seller's comprehensive list of the work he completed. This will enable the inspector to tell you what he thinks of the quality of the workmanship. The inspector should also be able to point out any defects. Ask the inspector if it looks like any corners were cut.

■ **Have old existing systems checked.** A contractor bought a fixer-upper to renovate without having it inspected by a home inspector. He felt competent to do his own inspection. When he sold the house the new buyer hired a home inspector who found that the old furnace had a cracked heat exchanger and had to be shut down. The contractor ended up buying a new furnace for the buyer.

■ **Check the permit history on the house at the city planning department.** Make sure that the renovator took out the necessary permits. Also, make sure that the permits were "finalized" by a city building inspector. This critical last step is often overlooked.

■ **Find out if the owner of the property and the renovator are the same person.** If the owner is a li-

censed contractor, ask him to warranty the work he did on the property for a period of time, say one year. If the owners are speculators, and aren't contractors, they probably subcontracted with other contractors for the work. In this case, they may not provide a warranty. So it's important to inspect carefully before you buy.

■ **Ask the sellers to transfer any transferable warranties to you for such things as new appliances, new windows, new heating/cooling systems or a new roof.**

Dian Hymer is a top-producing broker associate with Coldwell Banker in the Montclair/Piedmont office and author of "Buying and Selling a Home in California," and "Starting Out, The Complete Home Buyer's Guide," both from Chronicle Books. Order copies from Chronicle books: (800) 722-6657.

Online lending works for mortgage-savvy borrower

No. 68 in a series

Online lending is getting more and more popular as people discover that automation can reduce many costs and those savings are being passed on to the borrowers. It makes perfect sense, however, that the difference between the traditional lending and online lending is that the borrower must accept the demands normally placed on the lender or mortgage broker.

There are many sophisticated borrowers out there who can benefit from online lending, there are others, just as sophisticated who should avoid it.

The specific questions to ask yourself are: How well do you understand the mortgage process? Do you know how to compare loan costs and lenders? Do you know which loan product and rate/point combination is best for you? Do you understand lock-ins and when to use one?

Mortgage Madness

By Karen Senzig



Karen Senzig

"The borrower must accept the demands normally placed on the lender or mortgage broker."

If you cannot answer yes to all these questions, it may be best to avoid online lenders.

If you are an experienced borrower, for example, you probably know that multiple credit inquiries

See ONLINE, Page B12

NEW COMMUNITIES

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1 Castellana at Black Diamond Knolls
From the \$220,000's. New Release! Richland's distinctive tower accented architecture is a must see. 4 & 5 BR. 2200-2600 sq ft. w/3 car gar., country kit, 7000-sq ft. lots. Lone Tree to Mokelumne Tr. Open 11-5. 925-706-8855 or www.richlandinfo.com

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4 Tourelle
From high \$200,000's. Grand Opening! Richland's European-style estate homes. 2715-3535 sq ft., mstr. comm. near open space & golf. 4-6 BR, 3 & 4 car gar., 1 & 2 stone. Lots avg. 10,000+ sq ft. Dramatic entries, huge fam. rms., more! 925-706-8883 or www.richlandinfo.com

BRENTWOOD

5 Diablo Vista
From low \$200,000's. Now Selling! Luxury living at its most affordable! Exciting new single-fam. neighborhood w/designed to 2700 sq ft. 5 BR, 3 BA, central commute loc. At Fairview and San Jose. Richmond American Homes. 925-516-7193

6 Sunnyside at Brentwood
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DANVILLE

7 Shadow Creek Manor
From low \$500,000's. 48 luxury homes, 4-5 BR. Take 680 to Crow Canyon Rd. east, right on Camino Tassajara, follow signs. Open Mon 1-5, Wed-Sun 10-5. 925-736-7369

8 Campbell Place
From \$700,000's. Now Open for Preview. Ltd. edition of only 20 craftsman-style exec homes on lg. view lots w/feature floorplans. By Pacific Union Homes. 925-743-0238

DUBLIN

9 Meridian at Emerald Park
From high \$300,000's. NEW RELEASE! Models open. Luxury living in master-planned community with home designs up to 2200 sq ft., 5 BR & 3 baths. Loft, super family room, retreat options. Near I-580 & Dublin BART. Hacienda exit no. off 580. Open daily 10-6, Mon 2-6. Richmond American Homes. 925-629-8029

FAIRFIELD

10 First Green at Rancho Solano CC
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11 Ridgeview at Paradise Valley
Coming Soon. Spacious homes with up to 6 BR and 4 BA. 3 Plans, approx. 2192-2937 sq ft. Loft, bonus rm., den, mstr. retreat. Richmond American Homes. 1-888-420-2700.

LIVERMORE

12 Ravenswood
From mid \$400,000's. Furnished Models Now Open! 26 country estates, 114 ac. sites, 4 BR, up to 3 BA, 3 car gar., 1 & 2 story. 2554-3246 sq ft. 680 E to So. Vasco Rd., rt. to Emily. Open 11-5, closed Thurs. 925-449-5458. www.creativeidols.com/ravenswood

LIVERMORE

13 Ridgecrest
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14 Vintage Collection
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16 Grayson Woods
From \$520,990-\$617,150. Move this summer! Perfect location for commuters. Two-story, 1990-3135 sq ft., 3-6 BR, 3 car gar. Future golf course, low maint., 4 miles to 3 lvy's/BART. Taylor Blvd. to Grayson, Davidson Homes. Open 10-6, Mon 1-6. 925-274-0800

RIO VISTA

17 Sunnyside at Rio Vista
From \$142,900. Golf, tennis, spas, recreational activities for active adults 55 & over. Open M-F 9-5, Sat/Sun 10-5. Hwy 4 East to 180 No. to Hwy 12 West, rt. on Sunnyside Dr. 1-800-589-4080

SUNSHINE CITY

18 Hearthstone
From low \$150,000's. By Hofmann Co. Contemporary 1 & 2 story floorplans. 1564-2219 sq ft. I-80 No. to Hwy 12 East, rt. on Lawler Ranch Pkwy. Open daily 707-429-1593

VACAVILLE

19 Brighton/Cambridge at Westgate
From \$170,000's. Beautifully designed 3, 4 & 5 BR homes by Seeno. 13 floorplans, 1329-3312 sq ft., 2.5 car gar., convenient loc. I-80 to Alamo Dr. to Peabody. 707-448-6243 for Brighton or 707-448-4604 for Cambridge, from low \$200,000's. www.seenhomes.com

20 Diamond Grove
From the \$150,000's. Gated active adult comm. Contemporary 1 story homes. Beaut. pvt. rec. ctr. w/game rms., swimming & more! Open 11-5-180 to Orange Dr., follow to Orange Tree Cir. 707-447-5800 or 707-447-5900

VALLEJO

21 Crystal Pointe
From high \$160,000's. COMING SOON! Hillside homes in established neighborhood w/views of Carquinez Strait. 3 Plans to 1613 sq ft., 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA. Custom opt. p.lg.s w/skylights, wood decking, den conversion. Near 680/780. Richmond American Homes. 1-888-420-2700.

WALNUT CREEK

22 Oak Creek & Shadow Brook Estates
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622 BLAIR AVENUE \$638,000
Views forever! Formal living room & dining area, efficient kitchen. 4 bedrooms/2 bath hardwood floors, patio, deck & wonderful sunny garden. ANGELA GRUBB

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120 CALVERT COURT \$657,500
This exquisite Contemporary is located in a uniquely serene setting with a wonderful blend of indoor/outdoor living and perfect for entertaining. SUSANNE PAUL

6918 THORNHILL DRIVE NEW LISTING \$439,000
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Ants: Swarming to a home near you

By James Carter
STAFF WRITER

One summer's morning, David stumbled into the kitchen in search of his morning cup of coffee. He shuffled toward the cupboard and reached for a mug. Following a morning routine as pre-programmed as his coffee machine, David set his mug on the counter and reached for the coffee pot, steaming in a machine that breathed heavily. The early morning light was soft and warm. Yet as it stretched across the kitchen counter, something seemed odd. David focused his eyes and noticed the counter top was covered with a layer of what appeared to be coffee grounds. He leaned forward for a closer look. And the countertop moved. It was then that he realized the entire kitchen was swarming with a blanket of black ants.

Black ants — more specifically, Argentine ants — are a nuisance across the state. Households throughout California have experienced firsthand swarms of black ants that at one time or another have invaded practically every home or apartment, regardless of the housekeeping skills of the occupants.

As one might guess, the Argentine ant is not native to California. Scientists believe they first emigrated to the United States in the late 1890s, hitching a ride with a shipment of coffee beans from Brazil.

Known by scientists as *Linepithema humile*, the Argentine ant is particularly troublesome to humans during periods of extensive rain or drought. According to Steve Souja, a Ph.D. program who is writing his doctorate thesis on the Argentine ant, *Linepithema humile* appear to be "particularly susceptible" to hot weather.

Souja said that research seems to indicate "maybe some of these invasions may be tied to possible food sources." He said black ants appear to be "looking for things that they can't find in the wild this time of year." It seems that the Argentine ants feed on what is called honeydew — the melon but a "sugary material" that aphids produce when they feed on plants. Ants are so dependent on honeydew that they protect aphids and virtually raise them much like a farmer might tend to a cow.

According to Souja, aphids feed on plant "juices" — the sap that flows up and down the stems of vegetation. "Aphids produce more sugary material than they can use so they excrete it," he said. The Ph.D. candidate said that's why this time of year there is so much black soot



MURRAY J. FLETCHER/JOHN SNYDER

ARGENTINE ANTS are small (2.5-3mm) brown ants with a single node in the waist. They are typically found traveling in well defined trails between nests and food sources.

on sidewalks and trees: it's caused by aphids that, feeding on plants and trees, produce excessive amounts of

honeydew. The honeydew then drips down onto the pavement and a black sooty mold grows on it, Souja said.

During periods of excessive heat, aphids tend to decline in numbers, most scientists believe. As a consequence, Argentine ants are deprived of one of the basic sources of food. So they send out scouts in what Souja described as a "huge random pattern." And when they happen to find something that is palatable as a food source they go back to the nest.

In order to find their way back to their nest, Argentine ants lay down what is called a pheromone trail — chemical markers analogous to rock formations left by hikers on a wilderness trail.

Souja said there are many different types of pheromone trails, including sex pheromones, "attraction" pheromones, and those used in warfare — markers that are "used quite extensively in the insect world."

"Argentine (ants) are usually traveling in a line somewhere," he explained, though there may be a few stragglers. "That's because they've laid down a chemical trail that they're following."

Argentine ants form huge colonies and, according to some research, workers from different colonies often form still larger colonies. They prefer to live in shallow nests just inches below the soil in colonies led by many queens all of which are capable of producing thousands of eggs a day. The upshot is that colonies which are destroyed can easily be repopulated.

Those who make a living from controlling pests such as the Argentine ant say these insects enter homes around windows and door frames and through tiny cracks or holes around doors and windows. By denying them such portals, ants can be controlled — though usually not for long.

If it is any consolation, Argentine ants have become a worldwide scourge — a pest that has effectively eliminated many other species including insects that one might think to be far more dominant than little black ants.

Does that mean that David can do nothing to preserve his morning ritual unmolested?

Well, there are a few things that can be done short of firebombing your yard.

Argentine ants prefer sweet liquids and other morsels of food that

to most humans appear to be little more than crumbs. Soda cans stored with even a drop of liquid in them offer a virtual bounty for the scavenging ants. Good housekeeping is no protection from an Argentine ant invasion: Yet cleanliness doesn't hurt.

Though the University of California does not recommend pesticides of any type, there are some ant stakes and traps available over the counter that are not as toxic as the random spraying of pesticides, practically all of which cause great harm to both the environment and to humans — especially children. When black ants have invaded your home, it is also important that the pheromone trail is eliminated by hot soapy water.

Ultimately the march of the Argentine Ant may be irreversible. Like the cockroach, the black ant is an adaptable insect that may be destined to accomplish what many of its human counterparts were never able to achieve: world domination.

The famous Harvard entomologist E. O. Wilson was once asked if, in the event of a nuclear holocaust, he thought insects would take over the world. His response was: "My dear, they already have."

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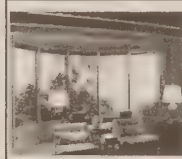
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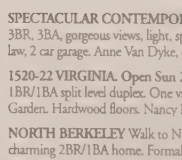
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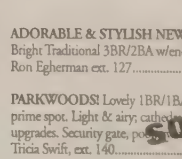
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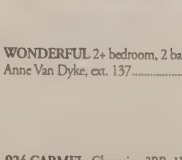
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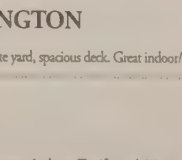
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Mantel has a rich heritage; keeps a warm spot in the home

Magazine racks have the skinny on renovating fireplace

By John Morrell

LOS ANGELES TIMES SYNDICATE

It's a catch-all, a home for picture frames and the place where stockings are hung. But the fireplace mantel hasn't always been simply a decoration.

For centuries, builders put a wood or stone shelf above fireplaces that served a useful purpose. Since the fireplace was also where meals were cooked, food was put on the mantel to stay warm, and large, overhanging mantels helped direct the heat toward the room rather than up to the ceiling.

As the stove and furnace became more commonplace, mantels evolved into the decorative pieces they are today.

"There's not much room to put a roast chicken on one nowadays," says contractor Eddie Sanchez of Santa Ana.

"The way most tract homes and condos are built, there's usually just a simple, narrow piece of wood up there for a mantel, if anything at all."

Boring. That's how many people would describe their mantels. But you can turn a fireplace that seems to blend into the wall into one that's the center of attention by adding a new mantel or a "mantel treatment."

"A lot of people will redo a room with new carpet and paint and just leave the old fireplace mantel up



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thinking that it's almost irreplaceable," says Sanchez. "But you can really add character to a room by doing the fireplace and mantel right."

Although a mantel can look imposing and permanent, in most cases it's made of hollow wood. "They're cut and made to order based on the size you want," says Eric Prochnow of House of Molding in Santa Ana.

"You can get just about anything you want based on your tastes and your budget, one of the biggest problems

is people aren't sure what they want." For most people, the answer may be to think in terms of simple, clas-

sic styles. "If you have a real creative flair you may be thinking of getting a mantel with hand-carved cherubs, vines and lion heads," says interior designer Carrie Cassidy. "But people looking to buy your house eventually may not appreciate your taste. You can always go with a classic design then individualize your mantel with what you put on it and the accessories around it."

Most home centers and hardware retailers sell mantels, and they always have to be ordered, since fireplace size can vary greatly.

Although mantel dealers have design books to show you the different styles that can be created, one of the best sources for mantel ideas is simply from the magazine rack.

"I often advise customers to look

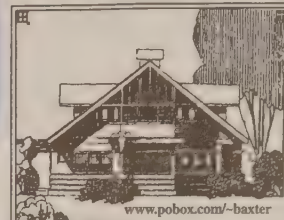
through the home magazines for a mantel they like, and we'll match it," says Prochnow.

A mantel treatment is basically an assembly of matching wood panels and pillars that surround the fireplace to give it a full, distinctive

"People will often tell me how it's done," says Prochnow. "Some beautiful fireplace mantels they've seen but they have no idea how to do it themselves. Our dealers will show you how the pieces are put together and what you have to do the job yourself. It's not too hard to do if you're reasonably handy."

Prices can range from \$5,000 for a new mantel, plus installation. For a good quality mantel built to fit over a medium-sized

See MANTEL, Page B9



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Mantel

FROM PAGE B8

place, look to spend around \$200 to \$750. Keep in mind your ordering time—it can take two to four weeks to build a mantel.

Once you've brought your new mantel home, the next question is, what do you do with it? First, of course, remove the old one. "If there's a shoe or finish molding across the back against the wall, pull that off, and you should notice a gap between the mantel and the wall," says Sanchez.

"That will give you enough room to get a pry bar in there to pull the mantel off. If there's no molding, there's probably a bead of caulking where the wood meets the wall, and you can poke through it with a sharp blade."

The mantel is generally attached with finishing nails to a furring strip that is bolted to the wall. When using a crow bar to pry the mantel off, be careful not to damage the wall above where your new mantel will be.

"Use lots of garland, greenery, hanging pearls, bows, the more you put on the mantel the better. You'll bring some focus to the mantel and above, which is where you want it."

Interior designer Leslie Barish

If you're doing the job yourself, National Fire Protection recommends that no combustible material, such as woodwork, be closer than 6 inches from the fireplace opening and structures such as mantels that extend above the fireplace should be at least 12 inches from the top.

If the old furring strip is in good condition and is the right height for

your new mantel, you can reuse it. If not, attach a new strip by bolting it into wall studs or with lag screws and shields if it's going to be attached to masonry. It's essential to use a level to make sure the mantel won't be tilting to one side.

"A shelf mantel generally supports about 150 pounds, while a mantel with legs can generally support up to 250 pounds," says Prochnow.

Once you fit the mantel in and nail it in place, you may notice a gap between the wall and the wood.

"It's probably not you, it's the way your home was built," says Sanchez. It's not uncommon to find walls that are bowed and crooked. The trick is to find a way to hide these mistakes."

A minor gap can be hidden with a fresh bead of silicone-based, paintable caulk. For larger crevices, finish molding may be needed as a cover. Once the mantel is in place, any additional panels or legs can be hammered in and the entire unit painted or stained.

Once your new mantel is in place, imagine how charming it will be when the holidays come around this year.

"Use lots of garland, greenery,

hanging pearls, bows, the more you put on the mantel the better," says interior designer Leslie Barish. "You'll bring some focus to the mantel and above, which is where you want it."

"There are a lot of creative ways to make a mantel stand out," says designer Michelle Graham of Santos & Graham in San Juan Capistrano. "You can put small fresh ivy or rosemary topiary trees across the mantel or at either end. The ivy is beautiful and the rosemary adds a wonderful scent at this time of the year."

Graham suggests using a row of small candles, perhaps in inexpensive terra cotta pots, to get a distinctive look.

"It seems like lots of people have more ornament than their tree will hold, so you could put those on the mantel, especially the glass balls surrounded by garland or greenery."

If your redone or redecorated mantel makes the fireplace look like an empty black box, you can do a few things to spruce up this area as well.

"You can try getting a new screen or hardware, or if you have glass doors, install gas logs and remove the doors. The glass doors tend to make the firebox look smaller," says Chris Jank of the Hearthstone in Corona del Mar.

Finally if you're going to be hanging stockings from the mantel on Christmas Eve, make sure Santa doesn't overload them.

"I've heard of a mantel breaking off on Christmas morning when the kids pulled on the stockings," says Sanchez. "Granted, it probably wasn't attached to the wall very well, but the point is, don't let the kids play around the fireplace."



HEATHER HIETT PHOTOS

SUNFLOWER (above); Tiny Bubbles (below).

Hiett

FROM PAGE B1

The Red Oak Gallery is open to the public Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A reception is scheduled for Friday, June 11th from 7 to 9 p.m.

During this exhibit, Hiett will donate a portion of her artwork proceeds to Red Oak's non-profit organization, "Red Oak Opportunity Foundation" (ROOF). ROOF provides funding assistance to dozens of local charities.

For more information on "The Unexpected Everyday" exhibit or the Red Oak Opportunity Foundation, call 510-527-3387.



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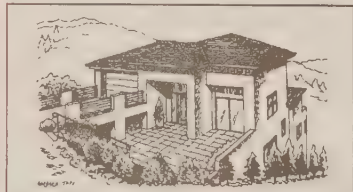
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Moisture, not termites will bring the house down

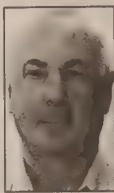
I worked for the phone company back in the days when that company was still semi-affectionately called Ma Bell. Back then I had a mild case of acrophobia. As a matter of fact, I still do. I had previously had the chance to become a lineman for Pacific Gas and Electric, but knowing that those guys work at the tops of the poles, and that the phone company people work in the middle of the poles, I decided that I would rather be a phone man than a line man.

It was a good thing that I didn't have claustrophobia, because in working in Berkeley for the phone company, I found that most of the houses I worked on, those which were built in the 1920s and 1930s, had tiny little crawl spaces — a claustrophobic's nightmare.

Those tiny little crawl spaces were also not good for arachnophobics, as

Firm Foundation

By Don Pearman



Don Pearman
"Generally, termites don't eat enough to cause tremendous amounts of damage..."

they have spiders in abundance lurking about. Black widows were quite common, although I never found them to be as aggressive as reputed. They mostly just seemed to hang out in the corners and wonder what

this phone man was doing in their space.

When I wrote and published a book about structural pests, I called it *The Termite Report*, even though I knew that decay not termites was the major structural pest problem in California houses. It seems that more people have entophobia than have fungiphobia. Insects that you usually can't see are more frightening than fungi spores that you can't see either.

And besides that, the paperwork done when a house is sold is called "The Termite Report," not "The Decay Document."

In general, in Northern California, termites are not anywhere near the problem that decay is. There is more rainfall here in the north, and the resultant damp creates conditions that allow fungi to bloom.

Generally, termites don't eat

enough to cause tremendous amounts of damage, and, in addition, the termites follow the fungi anyway. Structural pest professionals agree that termites don't do the structural damage that decay does.

Why then are so many people afflicted with eisotrophobia, the fear of termites, when the real culprit threatening the structural strength of houses is decay?

Nature understands the importance of breaking down dead trees and tree products, creating decay in order to return broken-down wood to a usable state for recycling on the forest floor.

As far as Mother Nature is concerned, our houses are an aberration on the forest floor and she will try to decay them just as quickly as she will the fallen tree, given that we do not protect the houses from the mis-

applied zeal.

You have a house that is mostly wood — the framing, the windows, the doors, the siding, the deck, the stairs, the roof — what can you as a homeowner do to keep your house from decaying? There is one method that is relatively easy, non-toxic, low-cost and effective — keeping the wood dry: less than 20 percent moisture. How can you tell if it's more than 20 percent? The wood in question feels wet to the touch.

Some examples:

Decks

- Flash the deck joists.
- Space the deck boards so that you can clean out the space between the boards and remove the debris that collects there. The debris holds moisture and promotes decay.
- Do not over-drive the nails into

the deck boards (driving the nails too deep tends to leave impressions at each nail and therefore full of water and decay).

■ At the connection of the deck and the house, make sure that connection is flashed and caulked properly so that no water runs down the wall of the house and into the wall to promote decay.

Roofs

■ Make sure that all roof connections and gutter connections not leak into the exterior walls. This is the most common cause of decay. After the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989, I did a nine-month survey of causes for building failure in wood-frame, stucco exterior houses in the San Francisco Marina District.

I found that more than 80 percent of the buildings there had frames that were so weakened by decay you could literally pull the nails apart with your fingers. I found

See NATURE, Page B14

Franchise Tax Board broadens aid to elderly owners, renters

More than a million elderly and disabled homeowners and renters are eligible for a state payment through the Homeowner and Renter Assistance Program that runs from May 17, 1999, through August 31, 1999, according to the Franchise Tax Board (FTB).

"This year literally thousands more of our most deserving citizens will qualify for this program. I encourage anyone who feels they may qualify but have not filed in the past to call the FTB for help in determining their eligibility," said State Controller and Chair of the Franchise Tax Board Kathleen Connell.

To qualify, claimants must be at least 62 years old, or be blind or totally disabled as of December 31, 1998. In addition, claimants' total household income must have been \$33,132 or less in 1998.

Homeowners can receive payments equal to four to 96 percent of the property tax they paid on the first \$34,000 assessed value of their home for a maximum payment of \$326.40. Renters can receive assistance ranging from \$10 to \$240.

Claimants should refer to the claim booklets for additional requirements.

Last year, 160,000 individuals claimed assistance totaling nearly \$15 million. The average amount received per claimant was \$92. This year, FTB expects to receive 650,000 claims and pay out \$85 million in assistance checks averaging approximately \$200.

FTB sends labeled booklets in mid-May to 144,000 claimants who have filed in the past two years. To encourage individuals newly qualified for assistance, FTB is sending an additional 630,000 booklets to potential claimants based on FTB records.

To ensure claims are processed efficiently, FTB reminds claimants to include their social security number on the forms when filing.

Volunteer assistance sites are available throughout the state to explain qualifying requirements and help with preparing the forms. Anyone interested can call their Senior Information and Referral Center for the location and hours of the nearest site.

For more information about Homeowner and Renter Assistance, call FTB at 1-800-852-5711 or check the Internet at www.ftb.ca.gov.

Seniors might benefit from reverse mortgage plan

Senior citizens are unfortunate targets of easy credit offers. It is not uncommon for them to receive 30 or more pre-approved credit card solicitations through the mail each year. Some include a check for \$5,000 to \$10,000 as an advance against their credit limit. All that is required is to deposit or cash the check. Simple enough until the payments start coming due.

For many senior citizens on a fixed income with little savings and the need to pay medical bills or make home repairs, this offer of immediate money can seem like a blessing. But it can lead to big trouble.

These offers take advantage of seniors by promoting a low introductory rate — like 4.9 percent — and then in the hard-to-read small print

disclose that the rate will adjust up as high as 22 percent. All that most senior citizens can afford to pay each month is the minimum payment with very little going to reduce the balance.

Seniors can find themselves making payments the rest of their lives.

Increasing numbers of seniors are filing bankruptcy to escape their growing debts.

"We have helped many senior citizens who took advantage of easy credit to pay for medical care for an ailing spouse and then were forced to file bankruptcy when they could no longer afford to make the high interest payments," said Lyn R. Link of the American Senior Enrichment Society.

For many seniors, there is another option. A federally-insured reverse mortgage enables homeowners 62

and older to turn part of their home's value into immediate cash for any purpose and with no repayment for as long as they live in their home.

This program is designed to help seniors stay in their home and maintain their independence. As there are no payments to make, there is never any risk of losing one's home.

With five plans to select from, senior homeowners may customize their reverse mortgage to better meet their needs.

Unlike high-interest credit cards or consolidation loans, the reverse mortgage program offers a very low interest rate. Past credit history and income are not used in qualifying for the program, and the money received is tax-free and does not affect Social Security or Medicare benefits.

Seniors can use this money to pay off debts or an existing mortgage, eliminate their payments. In addition, they can get the extra money they need for medical expenses, home repairs, or unexpected special needs.

In May 1998, the Federal Reserve Mortgage Association (FARM) released the results of its survey of reverse mortgage borrowers. The survey found that 93 percent of borrowers were satisfied with their decision to reverse mortgage and 90 percent said they would do it all over again.

For a free information package on the reverse mortgage program, call the American Senior Enrichment Society at 1-800-708-8118.

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Located just off Grand Avenue, this two bedroom, one bath home features: formal living room with fireplace and hardwood floors, dining room with built-ins, kitchen with gas stove and laundry room with hookups. The interior has new carpeting and has been freshly painted.

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Advances put underground sprinkler systems in easy reach

By John Morrell
LOS ANGELES TIMES

you are one of those people who spend hours watering your garden and lawn by hand, consider this the ultimate time-saver: an underground sprinkler and irrigation system.

With automatic sprinklers, you'll easily notice that you have more time, but you'll also see a difference in the quality of your lawn. It's watered evenly. You will also save water, since a sprinkler system is generally more efficient than watering by hand.

In years, sprinkler systems were expensive because of the brass heads and thousands of feet of steel pipe that had to be run under the yard.

However, with the use of inexpensive polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe and sprinkler hardware, an underground system is now within financial reach of almost every homeowner. Prices depend on the type of system and how large an area you're trying to cover, but a good system for an average-sized yard is \$600 to \$1,000, not including installation.

Sprinklers have become quite affordable in the last few years, as manufacturers have made manufacturing techniques for the average gardener. Now, lightweight plastics are being used in sprinkler heads that promote irrigation and release less water.

There are two heads, the Rain Bird 500 series and the Toro 570 series, where you really see a difference compared to the old brass heads," says Al Young of Harbor Bay Realty in Santa Ana.

They're spring-loaded pop-ups that remain flush with the ground when mowing and doing maintenance, and when they're turned on, they spring up and have a precise, misty spray.

Heads around the connections



DRIP irrigation releases precise volumes of water, potentially saving hundreds of gallons per year.

have improved, since leaks at these points are known to waste hundreds of gallons of water per year. "The seals at the stems of these heads are very watertight," Young says. "That's one of the best features of all."

A popular system with gardeners, drip irrigation releases the amount of water needed and is considered more efficient than most sprinkler heads. Black polyethylene pipe is generally used, and drip systems are connected to a valve separate from the one attached to the lawn sprinklers.

When shopping for a system, whether it's for your lawn or garden, Young recommends looking for quality parts rather than bargains and to ask questions about the different types of heads available and where

they should be used.

"There's a new, low-volume head known as a micro-spray that creates a mist, which is great for gardens and flower beds," Young says. "In an area where you may be considering a drip system and you have too much ground cover to make it effective, a micro-spray could be the solution."

One of the keys to your sprinkler's effectiveness is its controller, which turns the water on and off when you're not home and keeps you from over-watering the lawn. A good-quality electronic controller can do your watering chores for you, as long as you know how to work it.

"One of the most common problems we're called out on is when a homeowner can't figure out their

controller," says John Peace of Elmer Brown Landscaping and Sprinkler Co. in Placentia.

"The new digital controllers are often hard to understand and set. They have to be programmed like a VCR. Make sure you know how to operate it before you leave the store or the installer leaves your property."

Older sprinklers can be upgraded with more efficient heads and valves. However, it's a good idea to measure how far down the water lines are.

"On many older systems, the lines weren't down as deep as they're installed now, and the heads were shorter," says Young. "However there's a new flexible tubing available that lets you retrofit a new head onto old lines that keeps the head down low."

Installing a sprinkler system can be tricky. It's best to read through the instructions included in the kit and ask questions of the dealer.

"It's not particularly difficult, but you need to make connections for your water and electrical supply and if you haven't done that before, it can be complicated," says Young.

"But once you've set the valves, it's just a matter of digging the trenches and laying the water lines."

Others, however, aren't as confident in the quality of homeowner installations.

"Typically, we'll see people install cheap parts because they look like the more expensive heads and valves and they're less expensive," says Peace.

"But after a short time, they're finding cracks in the plastic (and) rubber and broken valves because of bad parts or a poor installation. If you have any doubts about your ability to install a sprinkler system, you'll probably save time and money letting a professional do it."

If you're determined to try it, directions are usually included in sprinkler kits, and the first step is to check the water pressure in your system.

Some rental yards will rent gauges and by hooking up one to the hose bib, you can see if your water pressure is adequate to sustain a sprinkler system. If the pressure is low, you may need to use more than one water line.

Create a diagram of your yard to estimate the amount of pipe you'll need and where it will be laid. Mark any depressions in the yard, since these will need less water.

"Put a small stake in the ground at each point where you're planning to install a sprinkler head," says Mark Choy, a landscaper from Costa Mesa. "Then run a string from one stake to the other to determine where you'll be digging."

The pipe should be laid about 7 to 9 inches underground. "Try to

make the bottom of the ditch as level as possible," says Choy. "You don't want the pipe to be bent from the pressure of people walking over it."

Automatic sprinklers definitely save time and water. However, they're not maintenance free. "You've got to clean around the heads and make sure grass isn't in the way of the spray," says Choy.

"But if you think they require a lot of work, just think how much time you'd be spending watering by hand."

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Stucco your way to a healthy new home

By John Schneider and Toni Wilson

you live in a house with stucco siding, at some point you will notice hairline cracks in the surface. Sometimes those cracks grow to the point they need to be repaired. If you replaced, moved or added a window or door you may have a hole in the stucco that now needs to be repaired.

It is a job that a handy homeowner can do on his or her own. Stucco is basically a mixture of lime and cement. Its purpose is to provide a weather barrier to the members of the house.

To prevent moisture from getting into the wood framing, homes are built with a "primary" weather barrier below the siding.

The primary weather barrier is a waterproof membrane, usually paper or roofing felt, that is installed before the stucco is applied. This membrane, or vapor barrier, keeps the house watertight, not stucco. Incorrectly installing the vapor barrier is probably one of the most mistakes that a person can

make when working with stucco.

The first thing that you will want to do is to break the stucco back another six inches to expose the vapor barrier and wire mesh. Be very careful not to break or tear the vapor barrier. Break away any loose pieces of stucco from the edge and back-cut the stucco to give a rough edge for the new stucco to adhere to.

Next, carefully install the new vapor barrier so that it slips "under" the one above, at least one inch, and preferably three inches.

Then lap the vapor barrier at the ends at least three inches. Remember that water runs downhill, and properly lapping the barrier will keep the house watertight.

At the bottom of the wall, nail up a weep screen (a piece of angled metal with holes in the bottom flange), to act as a bottom ledge for the stucco. This allows any moisture that might be in, or through the stucco, to drain away.

Once this is done, install the wire mesh using roofing nails at least 1 1/4 inches long, stretching the wire tight as you nail. The wire mesh

should be nailed every six inches along the stud and tied securely to the original wire. Now you are ready to actually begin stuccoing.

Stucco is basically made up of one part cement, one part lime, and four parts of sand. Stucco can be made in a wheelbarrow, as long as the ingredients are thoroughly mixed prior to adding water. Adding water should be done carefully because too wet of a mixture will tend to shrink and crack, and too dry of mixture will create a weak bond.

Before you apply the new stucco, wet down the wall surface. The first coat is applied with a trowel, and is approximately 3/8 of an inch thick, just enough to cover the wire mesh.

Be sure to get a good bond with the original stucco by pushing the new mix up tight to the original, filling the back-cut. This coat wants to be fairly uniform in thickness, and before it dries, its surface is "scratched" to make a rough surface for the second

coat to stick to.

The second coat is applied at least 24 to 48 hours later. This coat is applied approximately 3/8 of an inch thick, and with the aid of a straight edge or darby, floated straight and level. The top of this coat is usually 1/8 inch below the existing surface. The finish coat is basically a thin coat of the stucco that is applied flat or as a texture to match the existing surfaces. Matching the existing pattern or texture of the original stucco is probably one of the hardest parts of the job for the novice. But it can be done.

John Schneider and Toni Wilson operate All About Homes, a home inspection company specializing in construction and code consultation service. They have more than 30 years of combined experience in the real estate and construction industries. Write All About Homes, 24326 Mission Blvd., Suite 7, Hayward, CA 94544. FAX: 925-537-8666.

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Oakland

\$210,000 14234 OUTRIGGER DR. Wonderful location with view of streams! A 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home with updated kitchen and 2 car garage. All appliances included, community pool, spa tennis court. Terry Lee 814-4840

\$233,000 14911 EBB Single level 2 bedroom, fireplace, security attached garage, great condition, quiet neighborhood. Jean Powers 814-4822

\$298,000 2520 BENEDICT DR. Great Neighborhood! Very single level home with 3+ bedrooms, finished eat-in-kitchen, plus room on 1st floor. Very large family room with fireplace and 2-car attached garage. Martha Turner 814-4828

\$399,000 2065 ORION CT. Home is 7 months old! Upgraded 3+ bedroom, family room with fireplace, tile in kitchen, and oversized lot. Jean Powers 814-4822

Orinda

\$549,950 10 CRESTA BLANCA. OPEN SUN. 2-5. REDUCED PRICE! Traditional charm, custom built in 1993 at end of private Cul-de-Sac in a tree setting! Sunken living and family room, two fireplaces, master retreat, master bath! Three bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, gourmet kitchen with all amenities, redwood decks and double car garage. Margaret Lomb 510-814-4829

San Leandro

\$210,000 14178 OUTRIGGER DR. Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath townhome with all appliances and all appliances. Call Terry Lee 814-4840

The Only Full Acre Lots in Walnut Creek!

At The Estate Collection, you will find elegant, executive homes on level, full acre+ view lots. These prestigious homes feature spacious floor plans of up to 3,740 square feet, dramatic architecture and numerous luxurious amenities. And located in the coveted North Gate area of Walnut Creek, The Estate Collection is close to parks, biking/hiking trails and top-rated schools — starting at \$799,900.

Summer move-ins available! Phone 925 256 9504.

The Estate Collection
at OAK CREEK and SHADOW BROOK
The Estate Collection is located off North Gate Road, just past Oak Grove Road.

Open Saturday and Sunday or by appointment.
Broker co-op welcomed.
www.newhomenetwork.com/sanfrancisco/delcobuilders

Online

FROM PAGE B6

can hurt your credit scores. Each time you approach an online lender for a pre-approval, they will run a pre-qualification credit report. One of our clients had 10 such inquiries in one day as he shopped the Net. It definitely affected his scores.

As we can see, it is best not to apply for a loan until you have shopped the rates and decided who you are going to do business with. Be certain

that you know what loan product you want and how many points you are willing to pay. Avoid lenders who will not quote you rates unless you apply for the loan.

If an online lender runs your credit report and you pay for it (usually \$17 to \$18) demand to see a copy of it. You should be able to use that information to keep other online lenders from running another report.

Be certain that the online lender receives a report that includes all three credit bureaus (a tri-merge compilation) and their scores.

Just like traditional lending sources, online lenders often employ

pricing gimmicks to catch your attention which can be often misleading. Their advertising claims and disclosures are legal but unsuspecting borrowers may get confused about the real costs.

You the borrower, must know the costs involved with your loan, all of them. So then you can competently compare what the online lenders are offering.

If you are getting a no cost loan quote, how is the online lender paying for the appraisal, credit report, lender fees, title and escrow fees? Who is the title and escrow company and where are they located?

Be wary of inflated processing and application fees. We heard one client boast that his online lender offered a great rate at no costs with the exception of a flat \$2500 processing fee. That fee was enough to cover all the loan costs plus give the online lender a healthy profit.

Beware add-on fees, as well. That's when the online broker may tell you that the appraisal will cost \$375 when the actual cost is \$300.

Remember that there are three ways that you pay for your mortgage: the rate, the points and the rest of the closing costs. Compare only offers that include all three. And be

sure that when a rate is offered it includes a lock-in guarantee and for how long. Otherwise you will face broken promises and disappointment in the state of Mortgage Madness.

Karen Senzig is co-owner of Montclair Mortgage with her husband, Scott. She can be reached at 339-8511, fax: 510-339-3814, e-mail KSenzig@aol.com. Please contact her with any mortgage questions and/or topics for discussion.

Correction

Julia Morgan designed old St. John's Church and Julia Morgan Theater and Derby streets in Berkeley near the nearby St. John's by the City Church, as we wrote in an article two weeks ago. A correction last week. We apologize for the error and thank you for the correction and letters we received.

John Smith

YOUR WEEKEND GUIDE OPEN HOMES

OAKLAND OPEN SUNDAY

7173 NORFOLK RD., Claremont Hills. 4+/3+ fab new contemporary. \$1,250,000 Bay & cym views. Quality construction. Pacific Union, Dee Knowland 339-6460

1700 GRANDVIEW DR., Claremont Hills. Splendid new Spanish Med. \$1,150,000 4/4 w/4400 sq. ft. Courtyd. 3 decks. Bay Vwsl Pacific Union, Francis Heath 339-6460

1009 AMITO DR., 1st open! Claremont. Fab New Med! 4+/3.5 w/grt \$998,000 frplian. Bay, Mt Tam, Claremont Cyn vws. Wells & Bennett, Terry 339-9780

6130 MAZUELA DR., Montclair. 5bd/4ba gorgeous contemporary. \$958,000 New construction. Prudential CA 339-9290, Sandy Chiu 339-3579

484 GRAVATT DR., Nw 1st OPEN! Claremont Hills. New 4bd w/big bay vws! Hm office. Kit/fam combo. 2.5ba. Wells & Bennett, Mary530-4148

2245 TUNNEL RD., Hills. 4+/3. Versatile, luminous constr. Fab mstr \$799,000 w/sitting room. Prudential CA 845-0200, Candice Economides 528-9284 2-5

1000 ALVARADO. Wonderful lg 5bd/3ba trad! w/bay views! Family rm \$795,000 w/wet bar & frpl. Custom detail. Templeton, Bebe McRae 652-2133 X145 2-4

6037 FAIRLAND DR., Montclair. 5bd/3+ba new constr w/spacious rms. \$768,000 SF Bay vws from deck & up level. Pacific Union, Teri Carlisle 339-6460

91 LEO WAY., Montclair. 5bd/3ba. Built in 1994. Level in. Separate \$729,000 dining rm. Family rm. Lawns. LaSalle Properties, Helen Nicholas 339-8900

734 CALDWELL RD., Montclair. 5bd/3ba contemp. New listing. \$678,000 Custom features thru-out. Family & rumpus. Montclair Better Homes 531-1670

120 CALVERT CT., Exquisite contemporary located in uniquely serene setting. Perfect for in/out living & entertaining. GRUBB CO, Susanne Paul 339-0400

6959 NORFOLK RD., Nwr Claremont Hts 4/3.5 contemp w/auipar or guest suite. New listing. Yd, deck, view. Wells & Bennett, Wendy 531-7000 X237

6040 ASPINWALL RD., Montclair. 4bd/2ba. Almost 3000 sf of luxurious space w/decks galore! Homes-Link, Ingrid 748-5300

8 KESWICK CT., Sophisticated yet comfortable. Frpl in MBR. 4th bd & ba \$549,000 on entry lvl- grt for office. Open LR & DR. GRUBB CO, Bettina Balestrieri 339-0400

6606 COLTON BL., Montclair. 3+bd/2+ba w/bay view, level yard. \$549,000 FDR, rec room, office. LaSalle Properties, Helen Nicholas 339-8900

1831 MANZANITA DR., Dramatic Contemporary w/3-bridge wv, den, \$549,000 auipar, vaulted ceilings, patio, decks. 4bd/2+ba. GRUBB CO, Judy Cain 339-0400

2130 MANZANITA DR., Shepherd Canyon to Skyline. 4+bd/2+ba. \$539,900 FDR, fam rm, bonus rm. Affiliated Brokers, Harry 530-8555 X17 SAT & SUN 2-4

1771 NORTHWOOD CT., Montclair 4+/2.5 contemp. Pano wvl Fenced \$525,000 w/ fruit tree. Wells & Bennett, Noll Davis 531-7000 X263

5717 BALMORAL RD., Private setting. Inground pool. Spa & decks. \$499,000 3+bd/3ba. Kit/family rm combo. 3 frpls. GRUBB Company, K. Buchholz/D. Woolhouse 339-0400

6525 CHELTON DR., Piedmont Pines. 4bd/3ba custom contemporary. \$495,000 Prudential CA Realty 339-9290, Gene Boomer 869-4202

380 63RD ST., Rockridge. 1st Open! Charming Classic Brown Shingle \$489,000 Craftsman on quiet street. 4bd/3ba. Jackson & Karr RE, Luanne 845-9169 2-5

6336 CONTRA COSTA RD., Rockridge. 4/2+. Spacious, lovely, open. \$479,000 Gourmet kit, level yd, 2-bridge wv. Prudential CA, Demetrius Wilson 834-2010 2-5

75 STARVIEW DR., Hiller Highlands. Smashing 3/2+ contemp twnhm. \$468,000 Totally refurbished! Quality Garden. Pacific Union, Adriana Giacomelli 339-6460

6738 BANNING., Dramatic Montclair 3+bd/2ba. City sophisticated. Rm \$459,000 for grand piano & art work. Lvl out to patio. Coldwell, Ruby Ng/Karen Lum 339-1174

3415 RUBIN DR., Joaquin Miller. 3+/2+ w/sweeping bay vws. Over-sized mstr pool, pos. auipar/in-law. Cul-de-sac. Prudential CA, Cynthia 845-0211

6874 MOORE DR., Montclair. 3+/2+ superb contemp in cozy wooded \$449,950 setting. Cyn vws. 2-car gar. 2900 sf. Prudential CA, Andrew Sussman 845-0200

1557 TRESTLE GLEN., Crocker. 3bd/2+ba w/soaring beam ceilings, hwdw \$449,000 frs, formal LR & DR, lg plus rm. Coldwell Banker, Del Orr 339-1174

6918 THORNHILL DR., 4bd/3ba. 1st open ever! Custom by long-term \$439,000 owner. Whimsical touches & Asian flair. GRUBB CO, Katherine Cooper 339-0400

6015 HILLEGASS. 4+/2 craftsman w/orig.details. Updtd kitchen. \$435,000 Sunporch. Spacious yd. Nr shops/transp. Templeton, Ron Egheimer 652-2133 X127

1800 ROSECREST DR., Oakmore. 2+2+. Large rms w/lots of charm! \$425,000 Hwdw floors, 2 frpls, some bay vws. Prudential CA, Emily Lane 832-3803

6125 SKYLINE BL., Montclair. 3+bd/2+ba contemp w/flux floor plan. \$419,000 Fam rm, office, auipar potential. SF view. Pacific Union, Chuck Corwin 339-6460

298 EUCLID. (X Warwick) Adams Pt. 3/1.5 Stylish Med w/lovely \$415,000 gardens. A must see! Wood frs. 2400+ sf. Prudential CA, Nancy Hoover 849-5338

3929 EVERETT AVE., Glenview. Spacious Units! 2+1/2, 2+1/1 & 1/1. \$399,000 EZ rental area. Bright & Charming. A Gem! Montclair Better Homes 530-6099 2-5

1442 TRESTLE GLEN RD., Romantic English Cottage. Reduced! \$399,000 3bd/2ba. Sweet garden. Prudential CA 428-0900, Claire Cunningham 644-5434

6474 OAKWOOD DR., Montclair. New listing! 1st OPEN! 3+bd/2+ba \$395,000 retreat. 3 terraces. Lush vistas. Nr Village. Pacific Union, Jeffrey Himmel 339-6460

1000 GALVIN., Glenview. 4bd/2ba. New listing. Solarium entry. Fam \$389,000 room, fenced yd. Cul-de-sac. Pacific Union, Wendy Gardner 339-6460

3940 HARRISON ST., Piedmont Ave. Elegant '20 flat. 4+/2 w/library, \$379,000 parlor, lg roof deck. NEW LISTING. Pacific Union, D.Cohen/S.Klemmer 339-6460

7627 HANSON DR., Sequoyah Hills. 4/2.5 w/South Bay Views. \$379,000 Sunken LR w/frpl. Montclair Better Homes Realty 635-9842

2084 BRAEMAR RD., Upr Oakmore. New on Market! 2+bd/1.5ba. \$379,000 Great condition/great location. Montclair Better Homes 482-9000

4046 WATERHOUSE RD., Just listed! Oakmore. 3+/2 Tudor. Charm! \$375,000 Hi beam ceilings, FDR, frpl, deck, yd. Wells & Bennett, Don Dunning 482-2256

6565 VALLEY VIEW RD., Sweet 3bd/2ba in wooded setting. 3bd/2ba \$369,000 + rumpus. Lg park-like lot. Tranquil. GRUBB CO, Josephine O'Shaughnessy 339-0400

4799 REDDING. Beautiful 3+bd/2.5ba custom built in 1985. Glorious \$355,000 amenities. 3000+ sf. Must See! Prudential CA, Diane von Goethe 525-5143 2:30-5

2040 TAMPA AVE., Montclair. 2bd/1.5ba w/bay view. Yard w/lawn. \$349,000 Sunny & Quiet. LaSalle Properties, Mel Copland 339-8900

4683 SAN SEBASTIAN AVE., Glenview. A RARE FIND! 3/2 w fam \$349,000 rm, 2 frpl, 2-car att'd gar. SF/Bay Vw! Wells & Bennett, Chris 531-7000 X242

61 GREGORY PL., Redwood Hts. 4bd/2ba. NEW LISTING! 4/2 trad! \$349,000 on nry level lot. FDR, remod kit. Cul-de-sac. Pacific Union, Ann Nichols 339-6460

6262 BULLARD., Montclair fixer. 4+bd/2+ba. 1/4 acre. Pool. \$349,000 LaSalle Properties, Victor Fierro 339-8900

494 WELDON AVE., Grand Lake. Large 4bd/1.5ba Colonial home with \$349,000 large backyard. Bickley Real Estate, Ronda Bickley 769-1606

6705 COLTON BL., Lightfilled 3bd/2ba contemporary w/ tree-filled \$329,000 views. Mstr suite. Patio. 2-car garage. GRUBB CO, Michelle Winchester 339-0400

5921 MERRIEWOOD DR., Montclair. Just listed. Bright, sunny, & \$329,000 secluded. 2+bd/2+ba. Family rm. Filtered wv. Montclair Better Homes 272-9030

480 HARDY ST., Rockridge. 2-story Brown Shingle. 4bd/2ba w/lg EIK. \$329,000 FDR. Wide halls. Arched doorways. Montclair Better Homes 287-9586

5654 BROADWAY. Rockridge. 1920's 2bd charmer. 1st open. Blt-ins, \$325,000 leaded glass, pvt gdn. Walk BART/College Ave. Wells & Bennett, Jini 531-7000 X247

18 EL PATIO ST., Charming 2bd/1ba on wooded lot. FDR, hardwood \$325,000 floors, frpl, 2-car garage. Better Homes RE, Steve Walsh 925-284-9500 12:30-4

46 TURTLE CREEK. Wonderful 3bd/2ba one-level townhome. Move in \$325,000 condition! Beautiful rose garden. GRUBB CO, Mavis Delacroix 339-0400

6644 HEARTWOOD DR., Montclair trad! 3bd/1.5ba. Lg LR, hwdw \$322,000 floors, DR, back patio garden. Coldwell Banker, Norm Robinson 339-1174

770 PROSPECT AVE., 1929 custom/1st time ever on market! Kitchen w/ \$317,000 eat-nook. Formal LR & DR. Many+. Coldwell Banker, Jack Brennehan 339-1174

4330 ADELAIDE ST., Redwood Hts. Big View/Big Lot. Cute, old 2/2 \$299,000 w/endl. sunporch, updtd kit, flex fr plan. Coldwell Banker, Donna Conroy 339-1174

164 JOHN ST., Piedmont Ave. Move right in! 2bd bungalow w/dw flrs, \$269,000 kit w/brkfst nook. Landscaped yd. Coldwell Banker, Vicky Faulk 339-1174

391 45TH ST., Temescal. Charming 2/1 bungalow w/loads of upgrades. \$259,000 Immaculate. Move in! Prudential CA Realty, Lisa Friedman 834-2010

339 SYLVAN AVE., Laurel district. 2+/1+. 1st open. A charmer with \$257,000 hwdws, blt-ins, frpl. Mstr bdrm w/patio access. Large yard. Det'd garage. Prudential CA Realty 337-8670, Maria Daugerty 869-5604 2-5

3991 FAIRWAY AVE., 3+bd/2ba in Oakland Hills. Home office. Fab \$255,000 new kitchen. Sunny yard. Montclair Better Homes 287-9571

240 CALDECOTT LN #111., Parkwoods condos. Most sought-after \$255,000 2bd/2ba "Piedmont" model. LaSalle Properties, Tom Erwin 339-8900

1431 E. 36TH ST., Glenview. 1st open! Frstine & updated. \$239,000 2+bd/1ba bungalow. LaSalle Properties, Steven Biasatti 339-8900

5290 BROADWAY TER., Rockridge. Condo w/2 mstr bdrms, 2 baths. \$235,000 Claremont Country Club area. 9 unit bldg. Montclair Better Homes 287-9592

923 60TH ST., Oak/Berk border. 4/1+ Queen Anne beauty! Hwdws, \$229,000 nw paint in & out. Many upgrades. Prudential CA, Cynthia Boze 845-0211

2509 ALIDA ST., Lincoln Hts. 2bd/1ba Garden cottage. 1st open. \$225,000 Updated. LaSalle Properties, Lois Johnson 339-8900 2-4

4665 BENEVIDES AVE., Glenview cul-de-sac. Cute 2bd bungalow. Frpl, \$225,000 hwdws, privacy. Wells & Bennett, Katie Meadow 531-7000 X288

290 40TH ST WAY., Piedmont Ave. Bring your paintbrush & tools. Two- \$199,000 story 3bd/1ba trad! Garage. Fenced yd. Coldwell Banker, Victor Ratto 339-1174

5290 BROADWAY TER., Rockridge contd. 2bd/2ba. Great \$195,000 location nr BART, College Ave shops. GRUBB CO, Ashley O'Neill 339-0400

3917 LINCOLN AVE., Laurel Street! 2bd. Fresh & Bright! Wd floors, \$189,000 lg EIK, bsmt storage. Wrap deck, nw roof. Coldwell Banker, Vicky Faulk 339-1174

811 YORK ST #101., Lakeshore. 2bd/2ba. Pride of ownership shows \$182,000 throughout. Prudential CA Realty, D. A. Hammond 339-9290

6135 LAIRD AVE., Maxwell Park. Quaint & Charming 2bd/1ba treasure \$169,000 home w/an in-law studio apt. Re/Max East Bay, Roy Benford 325-8497 2-5

3206 HANNAH ST #1., 1bd/1ba Loft. Bright, southwestern exposure. \$162,950 Gated garden courtlyd. Secured pkg. Prudential CA, Vanessa Smith 287-2569 2-4

3825 HIGH ST Unit 203., Laurel. Lovely condo. 2bd/2ba. \$159,000 2-car garage. LaSalle Properties, Greg Talloff 339-8900

2401 PARK BLVD #3., China Hill. 2bd/1ba nr freeway & shops. Well \$137,500 kept. Ready to move! In! Montclair Better Homes 531-1670

398 ADAMS #201., Large light 1bd corner unit w/big balcony. Nr fwy, \$89,000 shopping & Lake Merritt. Prudential CA, Bonnie Crown 869-4516 2-4

260 PERKINS ST #3C., Adams Point. New listing. Sunny 1/2 unit \$89,000 secure, well-maintained 8 yr old bldg. Nr lake. Pacific Union, Nancy Moore 339-6460

ALAMEDA OPEN SUNDAY

336 MAITLAND DR., Bay Farm. 3bd/2ba on one level w/family rm. \$290,000 and 2-car garage. Bonus patio rm. Homes-Link, Millie 748-5300 2-4:30

556 CENTRE CT., Harbor Bay. 2bd/2ba bright & spacious twnhm. \$267,000 2 mstr suites & more! A Better Way of Life! Prudential CA, Uli Lirosi 273-9444

SATURDAY & SUNDAY 2-4

451 CENTRAL AVE., 1bd/1ba duplex or 3/2 house. Close to Paden \$220,000 school, Crab cove. Nds TLC. Prudential CA, Jennie Wong 869-4922 SUNDAY 2-4:30

ALBANY OPEN SUNDAY

839 CURTIS. Comfy 2bd/1b nr Solano Ave. Charming orig details. Frpl, \$279,000 blt-ins, huge bsmt. Peaceful yd. Marvin Gardens, Ken Katz 527-2700 X40 2-4:30

1072 NELSON. New listing. 3bd/1ba split level on desirable street. \$259,000 "AS IS". 2yr old roof. Lg sunny backyd. Stasky & Company 525-8800 2-4:30

1052 VENTURA AVE., at Posen. Delightful 1bdrm Craftsman \$249,000 bungalow. Ideal, open, sunny location. Mr. Vissner 510-527-4677 2-4

BERKELEY OPEN SUNDAY

53 & 55 VICENTE RD., Claremont. Elegant 2-story 3+1/2 Med with \$1,325,000 courtlyd, SF & bay vws. Plus adj. buildable lot. Top of line construction! Prudential CA Realty 845-0211, Colette Ford 848-1093 2-5

2738 & 2740 PARKER. Elmwood. 2 fab houses! 9+bd/2+ba. Great \$1,125,000 area. Lovely details. Space, yd, more! Prudential CA, Ana & Pascal 273-9332 2-4

51 VICENTE RD., Claremont. 4/3.5 custom contemporary. Level in. \$999,000 Mstr w/his/her ba. Pool. Guest suite. Prudential CA, Colette Ford 848-1093 2-5

2945 CLAREMONT BL., Claremont Ct adj to Monkey Island Park. 5bd. \$875,000 3ba. Awaits millennium updating! Templeton Co, Faye Keogh 652-2133 X126 2-4

1061 AMITO DR., New construction. 4+/3.5 w/pano view! Many \$859,000 custom features! Gourmet kit. Family rm. Montclair Better Homes 339-8400 2-4:30

590 EUCLID. 4+bd/3.5ba. Magnificent Tudor. Pano View! \$795,000 Berkeley Hills Realty 524-9888 2-4

1 ROSEMONT. No. Berk. Large gracious 4+/3+. Country-like setting. \$799,000 Family rm, den, 2-car garage, garden. Prudential CA, Jay Hirsch 845-0211 2-4:30

1544 LE ROY. Pano bay vws! New listing! Historic N.Berk.nghbrhd. \$599,000 3+/2, study, patio, decks, garden. Templeton, Susie Schewell 652-2133 X144 2-4:30

1184 STERLING AVE., Hills. 3bd/2ba English. Incredible restoration. \$599,000 Yards & Views. Prudential CA 339-9290, David Otero 869-4239 2-4:30

2000 LOS ANGELES. Thousand Oaks Spanish Med. 4+bd/2+ba. Bay \$550,000 vw, den, brkfst rm. Nr Solano Ave. Pacific Union, Donna DeBardi 339-6460 2-4:30

2350 CORONA CT., Sunny Spacious English Tudor. 3bd/2ba. Multiple \$550,000 vws. Lg deck. Garage. Cul-de-sac. Prudential CA, Susan Ellison 287-8818 2-4:30

1 VICENTE RD., Claremont. Price reduced. 3bd/2ba w/Oriental flair! \$499,000 Hwdw floors, family rm, custom details. Montclair Better Homes 287-9806 2-4:30

55 NORTHAMPTON. Bright 3bd/2ba in quiet nghbrhd. Spacious LR w/ \$495,000 serene vws. Remod kit/baths. Thornwall Properties, Carole Riss 848-1950 X237 2-5

30 POPLAR. Cragmont. 4bd/2ba w/bay view. Magic gardens. FDR. \$469,000 LaSalle Properties, Mary Hanna 339-8900 2-4

2418 WOOLSEY ST., Elmwood/Rockridge. New listing! 2+++bd/2ba. \$435,000 2 frpls, old wood, glamorous dining. Det'd studio w/3rd bath. Tarpoff & Talbert 653-2050 2-4

1141 GRIZZLY PEAK. 2bd/2ba w/accessible outdoor spaces. Quality \$420,000 remod of kitchen & baths. Thornwall Properties, Kathryn Hill 848-1950 X242

1833 ADDISON. House plus 2 units. Unique private hideaway close \$399,000 to campus. 3/2 & two 1bd units. Montclair Better Homes 436-6683 2-4:30

7761 CLAREMONT. 3/2.5 sweet hse in the woods. Designer kitchen \$399,000 Mstr suite w/deck. Prudential CA 845-0200, Candice Economides 528-9284 2-4

632 ALVARADO RD., Claremont. 4/3+ fab fixer in grt location! Pano \$349,000 vws. "AS IS!" Reports available. Opportunity! Prudential, Glass/Sabine 644-5434

1729 SIXTH ST., Oceanview. 3-family compound behind 4th St shops. \$349,

WEEKLY HOME SALES

Compiled by TitleTech

ALAMEDA

1170 9th St. #1 - \$135,000
 153 Bannister Wy. - \$261,500
 162 Brighton Rd. - \$289,500
 400 Cola Ballena #3 - \$244,500
 1229 Coral Reef Pl. - \$283,500
 2025 Eagle Ave. - \$348,000
 3113 El Paseo - \$220,000
 47 Hays Ct. - \$480,000
 1840 Nason St. - \$215,000
 1022 Pacific Ave. - \$250,000
 2711 Santa Clara Ave. - \$350,000
 518 Santa Clara Ave. - \$237,500
 2855 Sea View Park - \$715,000
 422 Sheffield Rd. - \$345,000
 2101 Shoreline Dr. #50 - \$201,000
 1536 Versailles Ave. - \$430,000

BAY AREA

411 Cerrito St. - \$307,000
 408 Key Route Blvd. - \$205,000
 1827 Marin Ave. - \$265,000
 1085 Neilson St. - \$372,000
 35 Pierce St. #2116 - \$210,000
 35 Pierce St. #3104 - \$162,000

BERKELEY

119 5th St. - \$240,000
 427 9th St. - \$247,000
 1259 Addison St. - \$150,000
 406 Arlington Ave. - \$650,000
 1532 Bancroft Wy. - \$265,000
 1532 Berkeley Wy. - \$280,000
 1448 Camelia St. - \$140,000
 15 Canyon Rd. - \$680,000
 1117 College Ave. #U4 - \$176,000
 1701 Delaware St. - \$302,000
 443 Fresno Ave. - \$360,000
 1025 Hearst Ave. - \$365,000
 1515 Henry St. #A - \$338,000
 1223 Masonic Ave. - \$196,000
 11 Oakvale Ave. #2 - \$420,000
 228 Oregon St. - \$207,000
 400 Oxford St. - \$290,000
 159 Spruce St. - \$255,000
 475 Tacoma Ave. - \$385,000
 225 Talbot Ave. - \$270,000
 1515 Telegraph Ave. #9 - \$195,000
 1851 Wheeler St. - \$196,000
 457 Woodmont Ave. - \$1,300,000

CERRITO

3316 Alva Ave. - \$299,000
 4332 Barrett Ave. - \$299,000
 2033 Carquinez Ave. - \$428,000
 15 Wildwood Pl. - \$236,500

EMERYVILLE

7 Captain Dr. #419 - \$95,000
 7 Captain Dr. #445 - \$175,000
 1 Commodore Dr. #171 - \$148,000
 1 Commodore Dr. #337 - \$119,000

KINGSTON

45 Kingston Rd. - \$380,000

OAKLAND

2219 106th Ave. - \$145,000
 2975 107th Ave. - \$160,000
 2672 108th Ave. - \$116,000
 2133 17th Ave. - \$110,000
 929 24th St. - \$129,000
 2445 26th Ave. - \$130,000
 2001 36th Ave. - \$88,500
 736 45th St. - \$90,000
 2007 46th Ave. - \$85,000
 2023 47th Ave. - \$125,000
 845 47th Ave. - \$155,000
 1627 51st Ave. - \$131,000
 536 59th St. - \$165,000
 811 59th St. - \$229,000
 2023 47th Ave. - \$125,000
 2728 67th Ave. - \$93,000
 2830 68th Ave. - \$95,500
 2475 80th Ave. - \$130,000
 1735 85th Ave. - \$142,000
 303 Adams St. #27 - \$88,000
 100 Alpine Tr. - \$840,000
 1458 Auson Ave. - \$104,000
 7036 Balsam Wy. - \$315,000
 2733 Bartlett St. - \$130,500
 565 Bellevue Ave. #705A - \$152,000
 10833 Breed Ave. - \$140,500
 15030 Broadway Tr. - \$834,000
 9001 Broadway Tr. - \$305,500
 4066 Brown Ave. - \$198,000
 5816 Buena Vista Ave. - \$140,000
 5911 Buena Vista Ave. - \$795,000
 240 Caldecott Ln. #165 - \$192,000
 220 Capricorn Ave. - \$257,000
 491 Chetwood St. - \$250,000
 550 Colorado Dr. - \$90,000
 5815 Colton Blvd. - \$555,000
 7021 Colton Blvd. - \$465,000
 9430 Coral Rd. - \$116,000
 9326 D St. - \$183,000
 5125 Daisy St. - \$260,500
 1341 East 15th St. - \$148,000
 2052 East 19th St. - \$117,000
 2025 East 22nd St. - \$123,000
 2749 East 9th St. - \$90,000
 8715 East St. - \$113,000
 1020 Elbert St. - \$326,000
 4539 Ellen St. - \$155,000
 7089 Exeter Dr. - \$412,000
 4514 Fleming Ave. - \$171,000
 511 Florence Ave. - \$514,000
 6425 Girvin Dr. - \$395,000
 7545 Greenly Dr. - \$202,000
 1452 Hampel St. - \$315,000
 3340 Harrison St. - \$120,000
 6730 Heartwood Dr. - \$334,000
 2222 High St. - \$161,500
 1421 Holman Rd. - \$281,500
 375 Jayne Ave. #207 - \$82,500
 681 Jean St. - \$250,000
 3133 Kingsland Ave. - \$167,000
 1895 Leimert Blvd. - \$550,000
 3615 Loma Vista Ave. - \$230,000
 894 Longridge Rd. - \$800,000
 2861 MacArthur Blvd. - \$205,000
 3303 Maple Ave. - \$82,000
 5945 Marden Ln. - \$265,000

On the average

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 16
 LOWEST SALES: \$135,000
 HIGHEST SALES: \$715,000
 AVERAGE SALES: \$312,843

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 6
 LOWEST SALES: \$162,000
 HIGHEST SALES: \$372,000
 AVERAGE SALES: \$253,500

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 23
 LOWEST SALES: \$140,000
 HIGHEST SALES: \$1,300,000
 AVERAGE SALES: \$343,782

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 4
 LOWEST SALES: \$236,500
 HIGHEST SALES: \$428,000
 AVERAGE SALES: \$315,625

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 4
 LOWEST SALES: \$95,000
 HIGHEST SALES: \$175,000
 AVERAGE SALES: \$134,250

KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 1
 LOWEST SALES: \$380,000
 HIGHEST SALES: \$380,000
 AVERAGE SALES: \$380,000

6185 Mauritania Ave. - \$225,000
 3148 Maxwell Ave. - \$184,000
 749 McKinley Ave. - \$300,000
 33 Merriewood Cl. - \$200,000
 5716 Merriewood Dr. - \$287,000
 6212 Monadnock Wy. - \$135,000
 6750 Moore Dr. - \$260,000
 1155 Mountain Blvd. - \$274,000
 510 Mountain Blvd. - \$685,000
 700 Mountain Blvd. - \$715,000
 3739 Nevil St. - \$94,000
 2663 Nicol Ave. - \$137,000
 407 Orange St. #104 - \$127,000
 6015 Outlook Ave. - \$155,500
 4801 Park Blvd. - \$495,000
 3630 Pennington Ave. - \$113,000
 350 Perkins St. #108 - \$141,500
 8071 Phaeton Dr. - \$450,000
 2005 Pleasant Valley Ave. #218A - \$85,000
 1107 Rose Ave. - \$415,000
 386 Santa Clara Ave. #U205 - \$180,500
 3250 Sheffield Ave. - \$194,000
 14 Somerset Rd. - \$525,000
 60 Starview Dr. - \$425,000
 492 Staten Ave. #602 - \$125,500
 6224 Thornhill Dr. - \$300,000
 2488 Truman Ave. - \$85,000
 2560 Truman Ave. - \$110,000
 3945 Turnley Ave. - \$262,000

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 102
 LOWEST SALES: \$75,000
 HIGHEST SALES: \$840,000
 AVERAGE SALES: \$244,725

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 11
 LOWEST SALES: \$312,500
 HIGHEST SALES: \$1,015,000
 AVERAGE SALES: \$693,045

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 58
 LOWEST SALES: \$79,000
 HIGHEST SALES: \$328,500
 AVERAGE SALES: \$150,801

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 39
 LOWEST SALES: \$98,000
 HIGHEST SALES: \$340,000
 AVERAGE SALES: \$188,692

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 23
 LOWEST SALES: \$76,000
 HIGHEST SALES: \$292,000
 AVERAGE SALES: \$150,543

TitleTech

470 Van Dyke Ave. - \$200,500
 914 Warfield Ave. - \$248,000
 705 West MacArthur Blvd. - \$159,000
 87 Westminster Dr. - \$589,000
 288 Whitmore St. #105B - \$75,000
 4282 Wilshire Blvd. - \$250,000
 5431 Ygnacio Ave. - \$185,000

PIEDMONT

73 Calvert Ct. - \$726,000
 146 Caperton Ave. - \$806,000
 227 Estates Dr. - \$503,000
 1412 Grand Ave. - \$610,000
 459 Mountain Ave. - \$845,000
 801 Oakland Ave. - \$312,500
 196 Sandringham Rd. - \$895,000
 295 Scenic Ave. - \$465,000
 457 Scenic Ave. - \$495,000
 320 Sea View Ave. - \$951,000
 123 Waldo Ave. - \$1,015,000

RICHMOND

849 10th St. - \$85,000
 16 16th St. - \$220,000
 641 18th St. - \$79,000
 1736 1st St. - \$112,500
 338 38th St. - \$119,000
 671 39th St. - \$133,000
 830 7th St. - \$80,000
 2928 Alta Mira Dr. - \$126,500
 3107 Alta Mira Dr. - \$147,000

3111 Alta Mira Dr. - \$136,000
 3030 Andrade Ave. - \$135,000
 817 Banks Dr. - \$99,000
 3065 Barkley Dr. - \$155,000
 2747 Barnard Dr. - \$177,500
 435 Barrett Ave. - \$115,000
 2530 Beach Head Wy. #52 - \$190,000
 100 Big Bear Ct. - \$288,000
 817 Bridgeway Cl. - \$328,500
 2373 Bush Ave. - \$135,000
 20 Canyon Pl. - \$253,000
 3615 Cerrito Ave. - \$180,000
 42 Chesley Ave. - \$110,000
 2446 Cutting Blvd. - \$185,000
 2938 Devon Wy. - \$127,000
 2628 Downer Ave. - \$150,000
 1610 Esmond Ave. - \$121,000
 5233 Fresno Ave. - \$129,000
 5034 Garvin Ave. - \$165,000
 2626 Grant Ave. - \$204,000
 4642 Hilltop Dr. - \$162,000
 1758 Lincoln Ave. - \$108,000
 1601 Livingston Ln. - \$128,000
 2347 Maricopa Ave. - \$115,000
 3430 Maricopa Ave. - \$127,000
 1326 Mariposa St. - \$130,000
 9 Marvin Ct. - \$89,000
 2840 McBryde Ave. - \$155,000
 4213 McGlothin Wy. - \$115,000
 752 McGlothin St. - \$119,000
 1631 Monterey St. - \$105,000
 231 Murdock St. - \$130,000
 5018 Nevlin Ave. - \$191,000
 3731 Northridge Dr. #7 - \$160,000
 36 Park Ln. - \$94,000
 1025 Parkside Dr. - \$165,000
 6228 Plymouth Ave. - \$228,500
 2713 Sheldon Ct. - \$163,000
 2717 Sheldon Dr. - \$100,000
 7 Snowdrift Ct. - \$299,500
 424 South 36th St. - \$115,000
 2811 Stephen Dr. - \$122,500
 4737 Surrey Ln. - \$277,000
 2858 Tulare Ave. - \$120,000
 5418 Valley View Rd. #10 - \$116,000
 901 View Dr. - \$100,000
 2020 Visalia Ave. - \$122,000
 4532 Whitecliff Wy. - \$200,000
 744 Yuba St. - \$205,000

SAN LEANDRO

1476 148th Ave. - \$166,000
 1810 148th Ave. - \$185,000
 954 Alice Ave. - \$200,000
 380 Anza Wy. - \$165,000
 3862 Anza Wy. - \$220,000
 862 Arbor Dr. - \$265,000
 1250 Belleau St. - \$243,000
 299 Best Ave. - \$170,000
 1159 Breckenridge St. - \$183,000
 1400 Carpenter St. #221 - \$135,000
 1132 Carpenter St. #309 - \$122,500
 1400 Carpenter St. #338 - \$115,000
 1400 Carpenter St. #423 - \$98,000
 225 Castro St. #225 - \$118,000
 1693 Clarke St. - \$182,000
 3557 Del Monte Wy. - \$235,000
 74 Dorchester Ave. - \$186,000

532 East Merle Ct. - \$152,000
 975 Estudillo Ave. - \$280,000
 2367 Fairway Dr. #6 - \$145,000
 15225 Farnsworth St. - \$102,000
 1759 Hays St. - \$170,000
 968 Joaquin Ave. #4 - \$195,000
 14459 Kings Ct. - \$140,000
 14549 Kings Ct. - \$148,000
 2356 Levee Ct. - \$315,000
 894 Lewelling Blvd. #10 - \$116,500
 613 Majestic Wy. - \$140,000
 850 Oakes Blvd. - \$272,000
 1760 Pacific Ave. - \$213,000
 1003 Purdue St. - \$198,000
 940 School St. - \$235,000
 168 Sunnyside Dr. - \$340,000
 15335 Washington Ave. #105 - \$127,000
 1999 Wayne Ave. - \$202,000
 2525 West Ave. 133rd - \$195,000
 2586 Williams St. - \$220,000
 50 Williams St. - \$155,000
 613 Woodland Ave. - \$310,000

SAN LORENZO

1590 171st Ave. - \$133,000
 21920 Arbor Ave. - \$150,500
 1394 Culver Pl. - \$124,000
 20600 Garden Ave. - \$245,000
 16322 Helo Dr. - \$109,000
 15545 Liberty St. #101 - \$76,000
 15545 Liberty St. #104 - \$76,000
 15545 Liberty St. #201 - \$76,000
 15545 Liberty St. #202 - \$76,000
 15525 Liberty St. #204 - \$76,000
 15525 Liberty St. #5 - \$76,000
 16281 Liberty St. - \$125,000
 1515 Mono Ave. - \$150,000
 16904 Robey Dr. - \$210,000
 17300 Robey Dr. - \$211,000
 17019 Rolando Ave. - \$194,000
 16116 Via Conejo - \$189,000
 1791 Via Hermana - \$210,000
 1618 Via Lacqua - \$200,000
 17151 Via Media - \$80,000
 15590 Via Vega - \$292,000
 15934 Wellington Wy. - \$208,000
 20453 Western Blvd. - \$176,000

This list was compiled for publication in the Hills Newspapers by TitleTech of Oakland which obtains weekly records from the county recorder's office. Neither company guarantees accuracy or completeness of the information. Sales prices are estimated based upon applicable county transfer taxes. All questions regarding this information and any requests for additional listings and services provided by TitleTech should be directed to Bud Gorham at 510-568-7233.

NEW LISTING

46 Turtle Creek
Oakland

Enjoy the ease of one level living in this wonderful three bedroom, two bath townhome. Located at the end of a cul-de-sac you'll experience maximum privacy in this serene park-like setting. The yard has been beautifully landscaped boasting a variety of outstanding roses.

Offered at \$325,000

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Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed



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A Simple Mortgage 925-930-0149	7.375+0 7.125+1 6.875+2	7.125+1 6.875+1 6.625+2	7.375+1 7.125+1 7+1.5	7.125+0 6.875+1 6.75+1.5	Easy—simple. Never fill out a form. Low-cost jumbo specialist for 10 years. No application fee.
Aapex Mortgage 800-344-2739	7.25+0+0 7+1+0 6.75+2.5+0	6.875+0+0 6.75+1+0 6.25+2.5+0	7.5+0+0 7.375+1+0 7.125+2+0	7.25+0+0 7+1+0 6.75+2+0	VA loan specialist. Commercial loans. Call for details.
Aston Financial Group 925-934-5323	7.25+0+0 7+0+1 6.75+0+2	7+0+0 6.875+0+1 6.5+0+2	7.5+0+0 7.25+0+1 6.75+0+2	7.25+0+0 7+0+1 6.75+0+2	Jumbo 30/3 6.25+0. Call about our no appraisal refinances!
California Home Loans 800-952-5888 CA DRE Lic#01096460	6.75+3(6.92) 7.25+1(7.34) 7.25+0(7.36)	6.5+2(7.0) 6.75+1(7.09) 6.875+0(7.05)	7+3(7.35) 7.125+1(7.52) 7.625+0(7.67)	6.625+3(7.19) 7.125+1(7.36) 7.375+0(7.45)	Powered by EMC with over 12,000 loan options available. Free credit check with purchase or refinance. Apply by phone. 100% purchase. 10% down no income verify. Same day approvals.
CMG Mortgage, Inc. 800-788-6522	6.75+1.5+1 6.875+1+1 7+5+1	6.25+1.5+1 6.375+1+1 6.875+0+1	6.875+1.5+1 7.125+5+1 7.25+0+1	6.625+1.5+1 6.875+5+1 7+0+1	Open Saturday and Sunday. Low-doc and quick qualify programs. Email: steve@stevecarlin.com
Diablo Funding Group 1-888-4-MY-LOAN	7.25+0+0 7.125+0+25 6.875+0+1.5	6.875+0+0 6.75+0+5 6.625+0+1	7.375+0+0 7.25+0+75 7.125+0+1.375	7.25+0+0 7+0+75 6.75+0+1.5	FHA, VA, 103% no down purchase loans, divorce loans—get up to \$10,400 closing cost assistance. Debt consolidation loans. Call today.
Discovery Mortgage Co. 800-303-6800	6.875+2 7.125+875 7.375+0	6.5+2 6.75+875 7+0	7.25+1.375 7.5+375 7.75+0	6.875+1.5 7.125+625 7.375+0	VA—FHA—CHFA—PERS—CAL VET After 5pm and on weekends call 510-539-7245. Se habla Español, call 925-688-6128.
ExpressLoan.com 800-835-6222 CA DRE Lic#01227543	7+1.5(7.17)	6.625+1.5(6.91)	7.25+1.75(7.43)	6.875+1.75(7.19)	Call now. Fast, easy, convenient. Apply by phone or on the web. Low rates, friendly service, and professional licensed loan counselors. 5/1 ARM 6.5+75(7.26).
First Blackhawk Financial 800-796-6279	7.125+0 7+5 6.875+1	6.75+0 6.625+5 6.5+1	7.375+0+0 7.25+5 7.125+1	7.125+0 7+0 6.875+75	Super-jumbo specialist. Call Mary 7 days per week. miltgell@1stblackhawk.com
J&J Mortgage Corporation 925-254-1271	7.25+1+4	6.875+1+4	7.375+1+4	7.125+1+4	FHA/VA specialists. Se habla Español. Bankers since 1949. FHA ARM 5.5+1+4.5
Portfolio Lending Group 800-866-1882	7.375+0 7.125+1	7+0 6.75+1	7.625+0 7.25+1	7.375+0 7.125+1	Conforming 3yr FIXED 6.5+0. Jumbo 3yr FIXED 6.875+0. No money down purchase loans to \$500,000. Ask for our manager Dave Tang (extension 1).
Rounder Financial 800-867-9783	7+0+1	6.625+0+1	7.375+0+1	7+0+1	Open 7 days a week. Se habla Español. Equity 2nos to 125%. Debt consolidation.
Union Trust Mortgages Services, Inc. 800-770-UTMS	7.25+0+1 7+1+1	7.125+0+1 6.875+1+1	7.375+0+1 7.625+75+1	6.875+1+1 7.125+0+1	Check our website: www.utms.com Best cash-out loans. Local Bay Area lender!
U.S. Mortgage Center 1-888-387-8762	7.125+0+0	6.75+0+0	7.625+0+0	7.25+0+0	Open Saturday and Sunday. FHA/VA, conventional. Debt consolidation. First-time buyers special.

Information is current as of June 8, 1999. For information on specific mortgage programs, call the lender. Rates, points and programs are subject to change and cannot be guaranteed. Points include discount and origination fees. Most quotes are for 30-day lock-ins, unless otherwise stated. Rates quoted are based on loan amounts of \$125,000. Maximum conventional loan amount \$240,000, jumbo loans are in excess of \$240,000. Annual Percentage Rate (APR)—an interest rate reflecting the cost of a mortgage as a yearly rate. This rate is likely to be higher than the stated note rate or advertised rate

FEATURED HOME OF THE WEEK



GRACIOUS LIVING awaits in this true Piedmont classic, "The Chateau." Call Carole Berger at Prudential California Realty, 510-644-5499.

This gracious and charming four-bedroom, three-plus bath home is located in Piedmont's lovely St. James Wood neighborhood. Normandy and Chateau architectural influences are evident both in the interior and exterior, with the characteristic craftsmanship of Miller-Warnecke throughout.

Distinctive tile work, beamed ceilings, built-ins, leaded glass windows

and parquet hardwood floors offer just a glimpse into the character and quality of this meticulously-maintained home.

The large family room is the heart of this home, surrounded by gardens which include a patio and deck. The adjacent kitchen has been updated recently; it boasts built-ins and a breakfast room. French doors from the formal dining room and family

room lead to the garden areas.

Carl Warnecke's grandson, Fred Warnecke, found a page in his father's notebook stating that Miller-Warnecke built a home in St. James' Wood in 1929 which they named "The Chateau." Written on this property's original 1929 electrical permit are "Miller Warnecke" and "The

Chateau." This special home lives up to its name and heritage.

For more information on this home, please call Carole Berger at Prudential California Realty, Piedmont office, 510-644-5499 or drop her a line via E-mail at carole.berger@prudential.com.

Nature

FROM PAGE B10

the decayed wood in the structures was one of the major causes for building failure in the 1989 earthquake. Decayed framing cannot resist strong seismic activity.

Windows

■ Corners are especially vulnerable to leaking; carefully caulk all around the windows to keep water out and decay at bay.

Plumbing

■ Installations such as the toilet or the shower can leak and rot out the floor beneath. Be vigilant about signs of leakage and repair sooner than later.

San Francisco's Marina district is composed of mostly very expensive stucco houses and apartments built with inset gutters and almost-flat parapet roofs. If there is any failure of the roof, the parapets, or the gutters, water can flow into the walls behind the stucco.

The framing and sheathing decay undetected because it is very hard to find decay behind the exterior stucco and interior lath and plaster unless you are looking for it. Even then, you have to remove some of the stucco or plaster to get to the wood.

Some people speculate that because the Marina is on the coast it suffered more decay than Central Valley districts where there is no marine air. However, I discount the marine air idea; I believe that the amount of rainfall in an area is the

deciding factor. I have seen old buildings decay just as quickly as Marina buildings if there are no steps that allow moisture to get to the framing and decay it.

Prior to publishing my book, I kept an active colony of termites in a termite heaven in the subarea of my house. It was an experiment to provide them with delicious-to-termites cardboard boxes and newspaper boards around my central heating system. I monitored their activity over three years with camera, notebook, finding that even an ideal termite-multiplication station they caused very little damage. I compared that to the rapid decay caused by moisture and drew conclusions.

Even though we may have a phobia, what we really should have is fungiphobia. The good thing is that we can mitigate most of fungi problems by eliminating leaks that cause them. Be vigilant, not phobic.

Don Pearman is a northern California contractor and author of *The Termite Report: How to Save Your Home from Pests, Rot and Earthquakes*. Address questions to Don Hoover Ave., Oakland, CA 94612 or e-mail dpearman@earthlink.net. Web site: donpearman.com

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Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

PACIFIC UNION

~ Open Sunday 2:00-4:30 ~

1 SANDRINGHAM, PIEDMONT - 5+BD/5+BA.....\$1,775,000
Charming Country English in lush garden setting. Great floorplan, maid's room w/bath, pool. Helen Danhakl

7173 NORFOLK RD., CLAREMONT HILLS - 4+BD/3+BA.....\$1,250,000
Fantastic new contemporary by August Co., serene setting w/Bay & canyon views, quality construction. Dee Knowland

1700 GRANDVIEW DR., CLAREMONT HILLS - 4BD/4BA.....\$1,150,000
Splendid new Spanish/Medit w/approx. 4400 sq. ft., courtyard, 3 decks w/Bay views. Francis Heath

6037 FAIRLANE DR., MONTCLAIR - 5BD/3+BA.....\$768,000
New construction w/spacious rooms, level play area, SF Bay views from deck & upper level. Teri Carlisle

2000 LOS ANGELES, BERKELEY - 4+BD/2+BA.....\$550,000
New listing! 1000 Oaks Spanish/Mediterranean w/Bay view, den, brkfst room, near Solano Ave. Donna DeBardi

75 STARVIEW DR., HILLER HIGHLANDS - 3BD/2+BA.....\$468,000
Smashing contemporary townhome, totally refurbished w/quality materials throughout, lovely garden. Adriana Giacomelli

6125 SKYLINE BLVD., MONTCLAIR - 3+BD/2+BA.....\$419,000
Spacious contemp. w/flexible floor plan, family rm, office, au pair potential, SF view from deck. Chuck Corwin

6474 OAKWOOD DR., MONTCLAIR - 3+BD/2+BA.....\$395,000
New listing! 1st open! Contemporary retreat w/lush vistas, kitchen/ram 3 terraces, near Village. Jeffrey Himmel

1000 GALVIN, GLENVIEW - 4BD/2BA.....\$389,000
New listing! Wonderful 1915 home with dramatic solarium entry, family room, fenced yard, cul-de-sac. Wendy Gardner

3940 HARRISON ST., PIEDMONT AVE. - 4+BD/2BA.....\$379,000
New listing! Elegant 1920's flat with 2700+ sq. ft., library, parlor, large roof deck. Dick Cohen/Sandi Klemmer

61 GREGORY PL., REDWOOD HTS - 4BD/2BA.....\$349,000
New listing! Charming traditional on nearly level lot, formal DR, remodeled kitchen, cul-de-sac. Ann Nichols

260 PERKINS ST. #3C, ADAMS PT. - 1BD/1BA.....\$89,000
New listing! Sunny unit in 8 yr. old bldg., secure & well-maintained, lovely street near lake. Nancy Moore

~ By Appointment ~

PIEDMONT.....\$3,950,000
New listing! Landmark 1912 estate on desirable st., 7+BD/7+BA, approx. 1 level acre w/pool, carriage house. Georgia Cornell

PIEDMONT.....\$3,900,000
Gracious Mediterranean home, 2/3 acre of lush grounds, Bay view, 6+BD/6+BA. Georgia Cornell & Angela Lam

PIEDMONT.....\$676,000
Serene 3+BD/3BA contemporary w/S.F. Bay views, indoor/outdoor living on large, private lot. David Ichikawa

MONTCLAIR.....\$459,000
New listing! Spacious 5BD/3+BA w/sloping beamed ceilings in LR, formal DR, partial Bay view, au pair. Adriana Giacomelli

PIEDMONT AVE. INCOME PROPERTY.....\$395,900
New listing! 2 houses on one lot. 2BD/1BA w/formal DR & 2+BD/1+BA owner's home, garage, yard. Thomas Wurst

TEMESCAL.....\$279,000
Charming 2BD/1BA bungalow with fireplace, formal dining, updated kitchen, sweet garden. Nancy Moore/Leslie Gordon

COMING SOON



PIEDMONT.....\$795,000
Sweeping SF & Bay views from this 4BD/3BA home with family room and remodeled kitchen. Wendy Gardner

COMING SOON



CROCKER HIGHLANDS.....\$359,000
Charming 3 bedroom Spanish/Mediterranean home with new chef's kitchen, formal dining room. Donna DeBardi

COMING SOON



MONTCLAIR.....\$329,000
Great value! 3BD/2BA home with remodeled kitchen, raised hearth fireplace, hwdw flrs, fresh interior paint. Chuck Corwin

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SPORTS

VJ

June 10

Section C

Baseball Hawks in the catbird seat in Pony League playoffs [C2]

Arts California Shakespeare Festival this weekend [C3]

Glenn's bad dream

St. Mary's junior reaches state finals but his shoes don't

By Peter Mentor

SACRAMENTO — It's a classic nightmare for a track athlete: you get to the big meet and either you don't have your shoes or you're missing your clothes.

Most wake up from that bad dream, get dressed and go to the meet ready to run. For Ebon Glenn of St. Mary's High it was an unwelcome reality.

Glenn is an incredible athlete. He made it as far as the CIF State Track and Field Championship finals, putting him in the company of the nine best high jumpers in the state.

What made this such an amazing feat for the junior, is he only started high jumping last year. His rise in the sport reached an apex last Friday in the state meet trials when he cleared 6 feet, 7 inches on his first attempt.

In fact, Glenn cleared 6-2, 6-4, 6-6 and his personal best 6-7 on his first attempt each time. He was clean all the way up to 6-8, which he missed each of three times.

Five other jumpers reached 6-8 dur-

See GLENN, Page C2



QUANTIS CANN of St. Mary's High crosses the 110-meter hurdles at state meet trials on Saturday in Sacramento. Cann injured his leg in this race and failed to reach the finals in either of the two hurdle events.

St. Mary's swan song comes at state trials

Panthers finish track season at state meet

By Scott Strain

SACRAMENTO — Reaching the CIF State Track and Field Championship meet may be the high point for many of the St. Mary's High School track and field athletes this season.

It wasn't the greatest of state meets for some of the Panthers, but at least they got here. For the seniors, it was swan song, but a few will be back.

Of all the Panther athletes who made it to Hughes Stadium for the CIF State Track and Field championship, only the boys 1,600-meter relay team and high jumper Ebon Glenn qualified for Saturday's finals.

Glenn had a mishap that left him sitting out most of the finals (see related story) and the relay team placed eighth in 3:19.78.

The Panthers 1,600-meter relay team ran a 3:19.65 in their heat the night before, where officially they finished second.

Morse High actually won the heat, but was disqualified for running out of the lane. Long Beach Poly had a runner drop the baton and still finish the race, only to be disqualified for interference with another runner.

The Panthers had the eighth best time coming into the finals, where they ran in lane 1. They finished where they started the race, in eighth place.

Trials results

All the rest of the St. Mary's athletes saw their last action in Friday's trials.

That included shot putters Kamaiya Warren and Rosie Aikens. Warren, a freshman, finished 11th in the trials with a throw of 41 feet, 3-1/2 inches and Aikens, a senior, was 21st with a toss of 38-1/4. The top qualifying mark was Jill Camarena of Woodland at 50-11-1/4. She won the event on Saturday with a mark of 48-6.

"It was O.K. I wasn't nervous really," Warren said. "I was worried about how I was going to do if my knee started bothering me again. It just dawned on me that I made it to the state meet, so if I didn't make it (to the finals) I really don't care."

Warren didn't wake up with a nervous feeling the morning of the trials. "I just woke up and said, 'Oh, I'm going to Sacramento this morning,'" she said.

The St. Mary's boys 400-meter relay team, although it ran a 42.32, didn't make

See PANTHERS, Page C2

Lawson's leadership honored by state

Panther named honorary state meet coach

By Scott Strain

Success doesn't take just good athletes, it takes good coaching.

In the years Jay Lawson has been involved with the St. Mary's track program, he has supplied that leadership.

Although the school has never won a boys or girls state team title, the track and field program has turned out some good athletes.

Past stars such as Robert Read, Donnie Ward and Mark Boyd have all graced the winner's stand at the CIF State Track and Field Championships and are a credit to the school.

Much of the St. Mary's athletes' success can be attributed to Lawson.

The North Coast Section took note of Lawson's accomplishments by naming him the track honor coach for 1999. His picture and achievements were prominently displayed in both the NCS Spring Sports Program and also the CIF State Track and

Field program.

"It feels good to be recognized for all the work I've done at St. Mary's," he said. "I feel fortunate with the support I've had at school and the great assistant coaches I've had. We've had a lot of great athletes and great kids come through our program."

"I try to get our athletes to push themselves beyond their comfort level, to enjoy track and field, and always demonstrate class in our triumphs and defeats."

Defeats, especially at the team level, have been rare for the Panthers. They won nine straight league titles and five straight North Coast Section championships between 1988 and 1997. They swept both titles at the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League championships this year and did it again at the NCS championships at James Logan. The only thing St. Mary's doesn't have is a state title.

Student-athletes, Lawson says, are

See LAWSON, Page C2

Winnacker leaps into finals

Berkeley High high jumper finishes eighth in state

By Scott Strain

SACRAMENTO — One of the great aspects of the CIF State Track and Field Championships is that it can bring out the best in an athlete. So it was with Berkeley high jumper Laura Winnacker.

Going into Friday's trials at Hughes Stadium, Winnacker was not considered to be a favorite to advance to Saturday's finals. Her jump of 5 feet, 3 inches in the Meet of Champions was not going to propel her past the state's elite and into the final.

Past marks get you here but current performance advances you to the final. Winnacker jumped 5-6 on her last attempt in the qualifying round and made it to Sat-

urday's final. She did not make that jump in the finals, but did clear 5-4 to finish in eighth place. She can call herself the eighth-best girls high jumper in the state of California.

"I was surprised to get to the finals," said Winnacker, who is a junior at BHS. "Truthfully I was excited to get to the state meet at all. I didn't think I would make it to the second day and I was really excited that I did."

Last year as a sophomore she really did want to go to the state meet, but it didn't work out that way. The high jump is one of those events that is difficult to predict. A jumper can have a really bad day and not even clear a height that she usually makes in her sleep. But a PR (personal

best) in state competition is something to remember and build on.

Winnacker cleared the opening height of 5-2 and then had a miss at 5-4 before making it on her second attempt. Then she had three straight misses at 5-6. "I was a little tired today," she said Saturday. "I was a little sore in both my legs and I thought I would be able to jump through it, but it didn't work out."

"The qualifying went so high (5-4) that it kind of wore me out. The qualifying in league is like five feet and you take one jump and you're done. But yesterday, it was like a full meet for me."

Three jumpers cleared 5-6 in the finals,

See FINALS, Page C2



MIGUEL TEJADA of the Oakland A's is the subject of a book on Latino players in Major League Baseball.

A's Tejada focus of baseball book

Latino players' struggles highlighted

By Mike McGreehan

Latinos have long played a role in baseball history. Today, their influence is greater than ever as Latinos make up roughly 25 percent of all major league players.

Many, such as Juan Gonzalez and Sammy Sosa — last year's league MVPs — have already established themselves. But for others, the dream is just beginning.

One of those up-and-coming Latino stars is 23-year-old A's shortstop Miguel Tejada, who was born and raised in the baseball hotbed that is the Dominican Republic.

Tejada also happens to be the main focus of a new book, "Away Games: The Life and Times of a Latin Ball Player," by Marcos Breton and Jose Luis Villegas.

"Away Games" has received favorable reviews since its April publication. On Saturday, Breton will appear for a question-and-answer and book-signing session before the A's-Dodgers game at the Oakland Coliseum.

Breton and Villegas first traveled to the

Marcos Breton will appear for a Q&A session and book-signing before Saturday's A's-Dodgers game.

Dominican Republic in 1993 while on assignment for the Sacramento Bee, where Breton is a senior writer and Villegas a staff photographer. They returned on their own in 1996 to complete their research for the book.

"When we went there the first time, there was this little kid that kept getting in the way of our camera," Breton recalls. "We went back and Miguel Tejada turned out to be that little kid."

During that three-year span, Tejada emerged from a crowded field of Dominican hopefuls to become a hot prospect

See TEJADA, Page C2

Glenn

FROM PAGE C1

ing the trails, but among the next four who were at 6-7 Glenn was the best because he had the fewest misses (none) at the lower heights.

Glenn would get a second chance at that height in the finals on Saturday, or so everyone thought.

When he arrived at Hughes Stadium for the finals he found he had left his track shoes in the other van and had to borrow a pair from somebody. Those shoes were too big and he didn't make the first height.

This is not the way Glenn had hoped to end his season, but at least he will have next year. And there is no telling how high this guy can go.

Glenn is trained by University of California-Berkeley high jumper Jeff Rogers, who wants to take Glenn's natural jumping ability and combine it with technique to bring home a gold medal.

"Ebon came out last year as a basketball player," said Rogers. "My goal was that he would get through a season without quitting. He got enough success last year that we knew we had him this year. So this year we

worked him out harder."

That hard work paid off for Glenn, who won invitationals, and made it through the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League meet, the North Coast Section meet, the Meet of Champions and the trials of the state meet to reach the state finals in his first solid year of high jumping.

Rogers felt Glenn had a good shot at medaling in the finals. Glenn has a solid mental focus when jumping in a tough competition.

"To his credit he's a big meet performer in terms of dealing with the pressure," said Rogers during the trials. "He has three or four wins at invitationals. When the competition gets tough and the pressure starts to get to guys — and it does — he can handle it."

Rogers knows. The All-American high jumper has reached 7-6 in his career, which is 15 inches over his head.

Glenn, who stands 6-2, 155 pounds, is similar in size and weight to Rogers when he was in high school. If Glenn sticks with this sport there is no telling how high he can jump.

During the trials Rogers watched

from the stands With St. Mary's coach Jay Lawson watching as well. On each of Glenn's jumps Rogers was pumped as his student cleared on every height. Up to the 6-8 mark Glenn was perfect.

Rogers was hoping the trials would end at 6-7 with Glenn going into the finals with confidence. Then the top jumpers hit at 6-8. Glenn missed his attempts at that height, but his jumping up until then was good enough to make him sixth going into the finals. That was medal territory.

Six of the nine jumpers in the finals were seniors and three were juniors. Parlier High senior Gabe Zarate won the event at 6-11 with McKinleyville senior Kevin Weaver placing second at 6-10 and Corning High senior third Justin May at 6-9.

Of the juniors, only one went higher than Glenn. David Glasgow from Golden Valley High (San Joaquin Section) placed fourth overall at 6-9. Fernando Lopez of Taft High went 6-6 for seventh place.

Glenn could easily be one of the top jumpers in state next year. And nobody would fault him if he slept with his cleats on.

Hawks in catbird seat

Pony League team has two chances to win the title

By Peter Mentor

Just sit back and watch. That's all the El Cerrito Hawks have to do until the finals of the El Cerrito Pony League baseball championships this weekend.

The Hawks won a huge game, 13-3, over the Royals last Sunday, putting them in charge of the Pony League playoffs. The Hawks have to be beaten twice to lose the title.

Two games were scheduled before the Hawks would play again. The winner of a playoff game Friday would play Saturday morning at 9 at Cerrito Vista Field. The winner of that game would face the Hawks on Saturday afternoon at 3 p.m. in the championship game.

"We're in the catbird seat," said Hawks manager Harry Gordon. "We have to be beaten twice."

The Hawks played their nemesis Royals in a game Sunday that was close for the first few innings.

The Royals scored a run in the first inning and two more in the second to take a 3-0 lead.

The Hawks scored three runs in the bottom of the second inning, then they added four runs on six hits in the third to blow it open.

"We busted it open when everybody hit," said Gordon. "Even our guys who haven't hit well this season all hit in this game."

Ryan DeLaRosa had a triple, a single and pitched the last two innings for the Hawks. Ian Gordon pitched the first five innings, striking out 10 and allowing three runs on three hits. Gordon also had three singles.

DeAndre Miller doubled and singled, Kevin Sommers hit two singles and scored twice, and Alex Navarette

doubled for the Hawks.

J.P. Koehn, Kevin Stewen, Diaz, Brian Wagner, Toby Lutz, Kim Duenfleuer each had one hit. Oliver Monday walked and had several great catches in center field.

The Royals were led by Tom's two hits, Chris Morimoto, and a hit by Steele Nakamoto.

The Hawks beat the Mets on Monday before in another good game. Gordon pitched three innings, struck up two runs, Miller went out and allowed three runs, then LaRosa came in to get the victory, allowing just one run over three innings.

DeLaRosa also had a double, triple in the game, while Koehn and Sommers had two hits.

The Hawks beat the Falcons in a game played before Memorial Weekend. Then they had a long trip to play in the next round.

Tejada

FROM PAGE C1

for the A's.

Both Breton and Villegas knew Spanish, having grown up in Mexican-American families in San Jose. Though the Dominicans spoke more rapidly than Breton and Villegas were accustomed, it was only a matter of days before their ears became accustomed to the pace of the language.

Still, the two experienced culture shock.

"It's one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere," Breton says of the Dominican Republic. "You see a level of poverty there that just doesn't exist in the United States."

Tejada, like most Dominican natives, lived that life of poverty. And for poor, young Dominican men like Tejada was, baseball is a field of dreams—a hope for a better life.

"The majority of (Dominican) players in the U.S. came from the lowest rung of society over there," said Breton. "And Miguel certainly represented that."

In addition to poverty, Tejada had to survive other hardships.

"When he was 3, his home was destroyed by a Hurricane," says Breton. "His family was homeless for five years. Then, his mom died when he was 13. Because of all of this, he's developed a steely attitude. He loves challenges. He spent many a year just figuring out what he was going to eat."

Often in sports, adversity will fuel an athlete's drive to succeed. But drive alone is not always enough.

Tejada is one of the few from his island nation to realize his baseball dream.

Historically, Latin America has been a source of cheap labor for major league teams. And that tradition continues today in the Dominican Re-

public. Teams will often sign many players but the vast majority will never play in the majors.

Some failed prospects return to poverty in the Dominican Republic. Others end up in places like New York City, where they live as undocumented aliens.

For those who do find major league success, the story does not end. In Tejada's case, there is a father, grandmother, brothers and sisters depending on his income.

"Every time he comes to bat, he not only bats for himself but also for his family back home," says Breton.

Though Tejada's story is the main focus of the book, Breton and Villegas also interviewed a number of other players and former players. In addition to the Dominican Republic, the Breton and Villegas traveled to Puerto Rico, a U.S. commonwealth that has also produced numerous major league stars.

"What a contrast in islands," says Breton. "It's much better off than the Dominican Republic."

The authors have also included some valuable and interesting historical information. They tell of the struggles Latin players have endured over the years with both the English language and the American culture. They tell of how the Latinos' knack for artistic flair on the diamond has at times caused problems with American teammates and managers, who often view Latino players as "undisciplined."

Breton and Villegas also document many Latino firsts: Esteban Bellan of Cuba was the first to play professionally in the United States. Louis Castro of Colombia was the first major league batter. Bobby Avila of Mexico the first batting champion, Luis Aparicio of Venezuela the first Rookie of the Year, and Zoilo Versalles of Cuba the first MVP.

Bellan played in the early 1870s.

Castro debuted in 1902. Avila earned his distinction in 1954. Aparicio in 1956 and Versalles in 1965.

Just as Latino baseball hopefuls must hurdle barriers on the way to the major leagues, Breton and Villegas overcame many obstacles in getting this book to press.

The Sacramento Bee paid for their 1993 trip to the Caribbean. But for their return trip three years later, Breton and Villegas received a fellowship from the Alicia Patterson Foundation. That foundation, based in Washington, D.C., provides funds for journalistic endeavors.

"We made our money go as far as we could," says Breton. "But there were still a lot of roadblocks. There were times where it didn't look like I would get it done."

Breton was still writing the book while working full-time at the Bee—something he doesn't recommend for aspiring book writers.

"I would get up at 6, make a pot of coffee, write three hours and then go to work," he recalls. "Then I would come home, shower and write some more."

Painstaking, yes. But after reading the book, it becomes apparent that Breton's diligence was well worth the effort.

NOTES: "Away Games," published by Simon and Schuster is available in hardcover. It has a cover price of \$23. Breton will appear at the Coliseum as part of the A's third annual Reds, Whites and Blues Wine-Tasting Festival. The festival, to be held in the East Side Club, is free to all ticket holders. There will also be swing music entertainment and A's players will have a free autograph session.

The festival will run from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

The A's will also honor Hall of Fame pitcher Jim "Catfish" Hunter before the 1:05 p.m. game.

Panthers

FROM PAGE C1

the finals.

Quintan Cann hurt his leg in the race and that affected him in his hurdles races. The St. Mary's senior placed sixth in his 110 high event in 15.49 and was eighth in the 300 hurdles in 39.63. The last qualifying mark was 38.39.

"We ran well, we had some good competition that pushed us," said senior Paki Gordon, who ran second leg on the relay. "Our last hand-off was a little shaky and I kind of ran up on the third leg a little bit. It was just a little kink we needed to work out."

Lawson

FROM PAGE C1

attracted to St. Mary's. "I think kids want to come for the small community and good academics that the school offers," he said. "I don't really know the athletes before they come, but I coach football, try to find the athletes and get them to come out for track."

The program has undergone a subtle shift in emphasis when girls were admitted to the school in 1995. When Presentation High School was closed in 1988, the majority of local girls who wanted to go to a Catholic high school went to either Holy Names in Oakland or St. Patrick in Benicia. Then

It was only my second week running with this group. We had the lead when I got the baton and I just was able to extend it a little bit and gradually brought it in. I wasn't surprised at how fast this group is; I run with some of these guys in the summer."

Spring Harris, who became the first female runner to qualify for the state meet in a running event, finished sixth in her heat in the 100 hurdles with a time of 15.05. The St. Mary's senior also missed qualifying for the high jump finals, going 5-5.

Denye Versher and Kimani Lovan, St. Mary's two hopes in the 400, also did not make the finals. Versher, a junior, finished seventh in his heat in a time of 49.90 and Lovan, a senior, was

sixth in his at 49.49. The last qualifying time was 48.44.

"It was horrible," Versher says of his race. "My mind wasn't there (the race) was one of my worst. I ran more race (the 1,600 relay) and what I'm going to focus on next year; the Panthers got into the final."

The Panthers had two qualifiers in the men's triple jump, but neither qualified for the finals. Soledad Welch placed 16th with a jump of 51/2 and Asokah Muhammed 22nd with a leap of 44-1/4. Welch is a ninth-grader, Muhammed a sophomore. Both will be back.

Peter Mentor contributed to this story.

St. Mary's became co-ed and the girls track team was formed. Boys enrollment has declined from 440 to about 360 while girls enrollment has steadily increased. Boys comprise just over half the student body.

"It's been a lot of fun trying to build up a girls program," Lawson said. "Seeing where we were four years and now we're challenging for the section title. Four years ago we scored eight points. That's been a nice challenge and it's been kind of different."

St. Mary's has attracted such female athletes as Rosie Aikens in the shot put and discus, Kamaiya Warren in the shot and Spring Harris in the high jump and discus. Harris was the first female runner to qualify for the state meet from St. Mary's.

Lawson will continue to do the girls as he has done with the boys in the last few years. Public beyond their own expectations. NCSS citation cites the Panthers' feeling favored Berkeley in the 100 meter relay in the MOC in 1998, doing the same against De La La the next year.

"Both years we were three-point second underdogs and we raised level of competition," he said.

As long as Lawson coaches at Mary's, his athletes will continue to exceed expectations. He carries over to other aspects of his life. In school, where he has coached ball, is coaching football and track algebra. He is also the Dean of students.

Finals

FROM PAGE C1

which was won by Kim Stone of York High at 5-9.

Winnacker has been jumping since she was in the ninth grade and has set her goal at lot higher than 5-6. "Technically, you are supposed to be able to jump an inch above your own height and I'm 6-1," she said. "That would be 6-2, hopefully. That

would be ideal.

"What I want to do is get the Berkeley High record, which is 5-9."

Winnacker has no big plans for the summer except to enter some all-comers meets where she plans to work on her vertical takeoff. "I've got my form down pretty well and now it's a matter of getting the inches," she said. "Hopefully it will all come together."

Two other Berkeley athletes qualified for the state meet. Simone

Brooks finished fifth in her heat the 110 hurdles with a time of 14.83 and Daved Diggles was seventh in heat at 14.83.

"I ran a good time, but I don't think I'm in the finals," Brooks said after her heat. "I had a fast heat. I ran a good time but I don't think it's good enough. I just tried to be my best and I feel good about race, but I don't know what will happen. I'd like to be in the finals."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Basketball

Oakland Midnight Basketball is looking for coaches, mentors and sponsors for its summer season. Volunteers interested in coaching or mentoring should be able to make a 12-week commitment from June 4-Aug. 13 for weekly games held on Friday nights. Coaches and mentors

should also have an interest in working with young adults 17-25. OMB also invites the Oakland business community to get involved in the program through team and scholarship sponsorships. For details, call OMB program director Barbara Edmiston at 444-3006.

Bay Area Youth Sports will hold its 10th annual summer league for

both boys and girls teams. Games will be played on weekends from June 19-July 25 in Alameda, San Leandro, Hayward and Danville. Divisions for grades 5-6, 7-8, junior varsity and varsity are available. Each team will play eight games and each player will receive a jersey. Cost is \$550 per team. For details, call 1-925-283-4297.

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CITY OF BERKELEY

PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON BERKELEY GENERAL PLAN

GENERAL PLAN UPDATE DRAFT FOR CITIZEN REVIEW

Berkeley's new draft General Plan for the years 2000-2020 is available for public review. Berkeley residents and business owners are encouraged to read and comment on the Draft Plan. Copies are available at the City's website (<http://ci.berkeley.ca.us>) at 2118 Street, Suite 300, and at all Berkeley Public Libraries.

Help guide Berkeley into the new millennium. Participate in the planning process by commenting on the Draft Plan. Written comments are encouraged and verbal comments will be received at the following Public Workshops.

General Plan Citizen Review Workshop will be held on:
Sat., June 12, 99 - 2-4 p.m. - North Berkeley Senior Center
Thurs., June 24, 99 - 7-9 p.m. - West Berkeley Senior Center
Thurs., July 8, 99 - 7-9 p.m. - South Berkeley Senior Center
Thurs., July 15, 99 - 7-9 p.m. - North Berkeley Senior Center
Thurs., July 22, 99 - 6:30-8:30 p.m. - St. Clements Church 2837 Claremont

The first two meetings in June will also serve as scoping sessions for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) being prepared for the General Plan. The deadline for comments on the scope of the EIR is June 30, 1999.

Copies of the Draft Plan/Questions: Contact Andrew Thomas or Quentin Levy, Planning and Development Department
2118 Milvia Street, Suite 300 • Berkeley, CA 94704
Tel. 510-705-8135 • TDD: 510-644-6915. email: <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us>



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Arts

Elizabethan set sets the stage in Orinda

By Christina Engelbrecht

The audience pours into an Elizabethan theater with baskets of food and bottles of wine to enjoy "The Two Gentlemen of Verona," the latest offering by a young William Shakespeare.

This could be the scene in London's Globe Theater 400 years ago—or it could be a typical night at the California Shakespeare Festival in Orinda this season. A bridge has been built across the expanse of time separating the two seemingly disparate theatrical experiences with the addition of an Elizabethan stage set at the Bruns Memorial Amphitheatre.

"Lizzy" is the name given the festival's most conspicuous new creative force. She sits on the 65-foot stage (originally designed by Bruns architect Gene Angell to match London's Old Globe Theater) and pulls the playhouse of the Bard into the third dimension. A broad, multi-level structure built of planks and plaster that curls like a half moon around the audience, Lizzy's presence is far from neutral—although she was designed to be a neutral backdrop for all four shows this season.

Set designer Eric Sinkkonen spent two years researching the Elizabethan stage, going as far back as his graduate school notes on theater history and as far into cyberspace as taking a virtual tour of London's recently completed



MEGAN REINHARDT works on a section of the steel structure for the new set at the Bruns Amphitheatre in Orinda.

New Globe. His assignment from former artistic director Joe Vincent was three-fold: Create an Elizabethan aesthetic, mask the awkward entrances and exits off to the sides of the huge stage, and improve the acoustics to preserve the actors' voices in the outdoor envi-

ronment.

"No one really knows for certain what the Globe looked like, but I found all these replicas of what people think it would look like based on lines the characters say," Sinkkonen said. "Like Petruccio says, 'Tis a blessed moon,'

and he points up, he might have been pointing to a painted ceiling," he said, indicating one replica with a celestial mural on the ceiling.

In creating the same celestial landmarks, Sinkkonen ran into a re-

See STAGE, Page C4

California Shakespeare Festival schedule

Gentlemen, merchants and kings this season:

All California Shakespeare Festival performances are at Bruns Memorial Amphitheatre, Siesta Valley in Orinda (off the Shakespeare Festival Way/Gateway exit on Highway 24). Tickets cost \$10-\$38 for single performances, \$48-\$137 for season subscriptions. Call 510-548-9666, or visit the Web site

at www.calshakes.org.

"The Two Gentlemen of Verona"—A witty and lyrical romp through a series of classic Shakespearean shenanigans centers around the conflict between love, passion and friendship. Previews June 10-11; plays June 12-July 4.

"The Merchant of Venice"—Shylock is a zealous creditor trying to obtain his pound of flesh from

debtor Antonio. Questions of fidelity, loyalty and mercy revolve around the confrontation between Shakespeare's infamous arch enemies. Previews July 8-9; plays July 10-Aug. 1.

"King Lear"—Shakespeare's great tragedy about a doomed royal family destroyed by Lear's political folly, pride and fatal self-deception. Previews Aug. 5-6; plays

Aug. 7-29.

"The Tempest"—The mysterious Prospero orchestrates a massive shipwreck to thrust passengers onto his magical island, where they undergo a journey of discovery and reconciliation. The mixture of comedy and tragedy is a style of romantic drama that Shakespeare helped define in his late career. Previews Sept. 9-10; plays Sept. 11-Oct. 3.

Movie scores play well in Blanchard's repertoire

By Andrew Gilbert

As a jazz musician, trumpeter Terence Blanchard has studied the rich history of the horn, absorbing the sounds of Louis Armstrong, Roy Eldridge, Dizzy Gillespie and Freddie Hubbard.

As the film composer for such movies as "Malcolm X," "Clockers" and "Eve's Bayou," it's not surprising that he would undertake a similar journey, exploring the music of the innovative composers who opened up film scores to non-European sources.

With his latest album, "Jazz in Film" on Sony Classical, Blanchard interprets some of the finest film scores that draw upon jazz, and shows that music composed to heighten the cinematic experience can thrive outside the movie theater.

From Alex North's groundbreaking score for "A Streetcar Named Desire" to Bernard Herrmann's haunting theme for "Taxi Driver," Blanchard explores the soundtracks that laid the groundwork for his own success in Hollywood.

"This album has been in the back of my mind a long time, since I started doing this film work," Blanchard said from his home in New Orleans. "When I first got into this, film composing wasn't something I had pursued. I didn't have the background, so I tried to watch movies with scores that I liked to see how they worked." For the album, Blanchard gathered an all-star cast, including tenor saxophonist Joe Henderson, trombonist Steve Turre and the late pianist Kenny Kirkland, to whom the recording is dedicated.

For his four-night stand at Yoshi's, Blanchard is bringing in a younger group, featuring Venezuelan pianist Ed Simon, bassist David Pulphus, drummer Eric Harland, excellent young tenor saxophonist Mark Shim and Aaron Fletcher, a 19-year-old alto player from Louisiana. While best known for his close collaborations with filmmaker Spike Lee, Blanchard possesses one of the most glorious sounds in jazz, a warm, round, gleaming tone that is instantly recognizable.

Growing up in New Orleans, he studied with noted pianist and jazz educator Ellis Marsalis, patriarch of the talented jazz family, and eventually replaced Wynton

Terrance Blanchard

Marsalis in Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, an advanced finishing school for young improvisers.

The trumpeter got his first taste of Hollywood when he played on the soundtracks of Spike Lee's films "School Daze" and "Do the Right Thing."

While serving as technical advisor on Lee's "Mo' Better Blues," teaching Denzel Washington the finer points of horn technique for his role as the doomed trumpeter Bleek Gilliam, Blanchard cemented his relationship with the iconoclastic filmmaker.

During the first half of the '90s, starting with "Jungle Fever," Blanchard's scores became as important an element of Lee's oeuvre as cinematographer Ernest Dickerson's camerawork.

His music offered a cool counterpoint to Lee's extroverted visual style, and Blanchard used each film as an opportunity to expand his aural pallet.

Blanchard included some of his most effective work, the melancholy but defiant theme from "Clockers," as the last track of the "Jazz in Film" album, though he could have just as easily drawn from his nostalgic score for "Crooklyn" or especially his exceptional work for "Malcolm X," which he considers a personal breakthrough.

"When we started talking about 'Malcolm X,' Spike already had in mind a massive orchestral score for the film that he constantly talked about," Blanchard says.

"He said it was going to be an epic film and we wanted to have an epic score, and we went about creating and conceptualizing the music from that well before they started shooting."

Like Blanchard's vivid score for "Malcolm X," many of the themes

See SCORES, Page C4

CONCERT PREVIEW

WHAT: Terence Blanchard Sextet

WHEN: 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., Thursday-Saturday

WHERE: Yoshi's, Jack London Square, 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland

TICKETS: \$18-\$22

CALL: 510-238-9200



In concert

MARIO BALESTRIERI is a featured performer in a special benefit concert of orchestral and vocal music at 3 p.m., Sunday, June 13, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 2808 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. Tickets are \$15-20. The concert also features violinist Claire Burke, trumpeter Christopher Marsden and soprano Christa Pfeiffer. The concert benefits construction of the Lourdes Church Plaza. Daniel Durand is the conductor. Call 510-451-1790.

HOT SHEET!

■ The Crucible, a nonprofit education center promoting art through fire, hosts its first Fire Arts Festival at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 12, in Berkeley. Check the Web site at www.the-crucible.com.

■ The Oakland Public Library presents "A Meeting with Harriet Tubman," by storyteller Jamie Myrick, at three library branches — Temescal (Monday, June 14), Golden Gate (Thursday, July 15) and Lakeview (Thursday, Aug. 5).

■ The Golden Gate branch of the Natural Association of Negro Musicians hosts its 11th annual "Youth Concert Day" at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 13, at The Church by the Side of the Road, 210 Russell St., Berkeley.

EVENTS

Dance of the dead

The Aurora Theatre Company's seventh season concludes with a revival of August Strindberg's "The Dance of Death (Part One)," directed by Richard Rossi, and featuring Marvin Greene, Lee Ann Manley and Julian Lopez-Morillas. "The Dance of Death (Part One)"



MARVIN GREENE in The Dance of Death (Part 1)

plays Wednesdays-Sundays, through June 20 at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley

Showtimes are 8 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday; 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets, priced \$22-\$32, are available by calling the Aurora Theatre box office at 843-4822.

Oakland Museum

Bay Area Sculptors Group Exhibition V: The Object, features the work of Bay Area sculptors Margaret Herscher, Charlie Milgrim, Eddy Martinez Hood and Jane Grimm. Each artist turns found objects into new ones and recreates common objects from unexpected materials.

The exhibition is on view at the museum of California Sculpture Court at City Center, 1111 Broadway, Oakland, through Sept. 11.

Sculpture court hours are 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Admission is free. For more information, call 1-888-625-6873.

Open studio in Emeryville

Ripe and juicy women, winking eyes and playful installations are images that are not usually associated with the macho art of welding.

Welcome to the "Open Studio" event at Vickie Jo Sowell's Unruly Images studio.

Free and open to the public June 12-13, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Unruly Images is located at 3616 Peralta St. behind the Pac 'n' Save shopping center in Emeryville. Call the Unruly Images Studio for more information at 655-7374.

The Crucible

The Crucible, a nonprofit educational center, metal fabrication shop and sculpture studio, is hosting its first Fire Arts Festival at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 12, in Berkeley.

The benefit, a celebration of art through fire, will feature live music, a fire performance, a faculty art exhibit and an outdoor light-and-fire display.

To learn more about the Crucible, check out its Web site at www.the-crucible.org.

The festival is being held at 1035 Murray St. in Berkeley.

Cost is \$10-20. The Crucible is open from 3-10 p.m., Monday-Friday, and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on weekends.

Moochnek Gallery

Cecile Moochnek presents new works by renowned Japanese sculptor Masuo Nakajima.

Nakajima makes his home in Nagano, Japan and is part of a 900

See EVENTS, Page C4

Multimedia Notes

By Bill Mann

You've lost that edgy feeling

Late-night confession: As many longtime East Bay readers know, for 15 years or so, I've been a David Letterman fan. In the days of his old NBC show, "Late Night," he was the king of the night. But in the past year, that's changed. And many of you have never cared for his brand of humor. So, why the change? It has to do with age: Taking chances and not being afraid to offend people. Jay Leno used to have a back when he was a peripatetic stand-up. But Jay lost his edge once he got the "Tonight Show" and he lost his comedy into the bland. Letterman had it a lot longer, but lately, he's lost it, too.

For reasons that are not completely clear, Letterman's "Late Show" (KPIX-TV, 11:35 p.m. weeknights) isn't nearly as funny or as interesting as it once was. In fact, I stopped taping it a few months ago. Now I tape Craig Kilborn's "Late Show" on CBS at 12:35 a.m. Instead, or I'll catch the talented Jon Stewart on Comedy Central's "Jon Stewart and the Daily Show." Letterman, possibly because he's been losing in the Nielsen to Leno, now plays it safe and usually goes with formula comedy. It's sad.

But I taped Letterman's show a few times recently, just to see if I might return to the fold. But there's one reason to: Dave's trademark lip list is more often than not a "Chicken a la Don King" was named as a Pillsbury Bake-Off loser, (same gag). A recurring bit about finding Hawaiians who answer the phone by saying "Aloha" wasn't a good idea in the first place. (I grew up in Hawaii and wrote a column in the Honolulu morning paper in the '70s, and I can't remember anyone doing that, except maybe at the Hawaii Visitors' Bureau). And Letterman's showing producer Rob Burnett's childhood photos wasn't funny.

Plus, Dave's continuing monologue jokes about President Clinton's supposedly ongoing sexual escapades are a painful reminder of the cheap, juvenile laughs Johnny Carson used to get with his Dolly Parton jokes. Carson at least reigned. Now Letterman, who looks like he's just going through the motions, might want to consider doing the same thing while he's (somewhat) near the top. Any other former Letterman fans out there?

Confusion in advertising, radio-TV division: OK, why are they using that old '70s R&B hit, "You Sexy Thing," on Burger King commercials? What's the tie-in? What, as they say on Madison Ave., are the copy points being hit here? Is it somehow sexy to see a burger being gulped? Is this what those disgusting Carl's Jr. dripping-burger commercials have established, a proven behavioral link between beef and sex? Granted, that new Jimmy's ad for Grand Slam breakfasts is similar, but at least the song "I'm Just a Love Machine" and the dancing chickens following the poster are funny. Is it becoming important now, one wonders, to get the word "sex" or "sexy" into fast-food commercials?

Equally confusing is a radio ad that's been running lately (I've heard it on KCBS) for a national hotel chain. This spot, for Wyndham Hotels, has a premise that was once unthinkable: That not only are circus people now welcome at their hotels, they actually endorse them. That's right. Circus performers. Is this progress, or what?

Maybe it's just because this circus has an artsy French name and a vaguely upscale cachet. These ads proclaim proudly that "Wyndham Hotels are the official hotel of Le Cirque du Soleil."

Man, have times changed. I'm trying to imagine our family checking into a motel in, say, 1959 after a long day on the road. Our Desoto is parked just outside the office, and my old man, the Army major, is told by the manager, "Sir, you'll be happy to know that your room will be on the same floor with all the circus people."

Right. If I ever check into a Wyndham, it'd be my luck to have the circus artists in the room just above (or below) me. Well, at least Cirque du Soleil (Official Circus of Jack London Square) doesn't have elephants.

(And please, no indignant letters from Cirque fans. I personally know some of the troupe's founders and performers from my old Montreal

See MANN, Page C4

Events

FROM PAGE C3

year artistic lineage.

After a successful exhibition with the Cecile Mouchnek Gallery in 1997, Nakajima returns with 21 new sculptures of a deep sea green metamorphic stone exploring aspects of the sphere.

Each sculpture has a powerful yet quiet presence.

Located at 1809-D Fourth St. (upstairs). Gallery hours are Wednesday - Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 549-1018 for information.

Storytelling at the library

Oakland Public Library presents storyteller Jamie Myrick, in "A Meeting with Harriet Tubman."

This free interactive musical performance transforms members of the audience into 19th century slaves, who will learn about the Underground Railroad, the abolitionist movement, famous slaves who escaped, hymns used as secret messages, navigating by starlight and using quilts as maps.

You don't have to wait for African-American History month to meet Harriet Tubman.

Come to one of the following branches of the Oakland Public Library.

- Temescal Branch: June 14, 1 p.m., 5205 Telegraph Ave. 597-5049
- Golden Gate Branch: July 15, 11 a.m., 5433 San Pablo Ave. 597-5023
- Lakeview Branch: Aug. 5, 1 p.m., 550 El Embarcadero. 238-7344

Youth Concert Day

The Golden Gate Branch of the National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc., invites the public, family and friends to attend the members' concert, part of the 11th annual "Youth Concert Day" event on June 13 at 3:30 p.m.

Events will be held at The Church by the Side of the Road, 210 Russell St.

Dr. Arthur Scott is pastor of the Church. The concert will feature various outstanding members of the Golden Gate Branch, and will include special guest soloists from the community.

The annual Youth Concert Day event, will feature young talented Bay Area African-American musicians in concert.

Children's Fairyland

Children and family are invited to a summer family overnighter at Children's Fairyland on June 12, July 17 and Aug. 14.

Families may register now for the opportunity to sleep and dream inside the enchanted world of Fairyland.

Each family should bring their own tent, sleeping bags and personal items.

The fun begins with dinner at 6 p.m., followed by unlimited Fairyland rides, entertainment, a visit with Woodlins the Lamb. There will also be after-dinner snacks. The event ends with breakfast the next morning before 9 a.m.

The cost of the family overnighter is \$35 for the first adult, \$25 for additional adults within the party, and \$15 per child. There is no charge for children under age 1. Children must be accompanied by an adult; each overnighter is limited to 100 people.

Fairyland is located on the shores of Lake Merritt at Bellevue and Grand avenues. During the spring season, it is open Wednesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The front gate closes at 4 p.m.

Admission is \$5, and includes unlimited rides. For more information and reservations for the family overnighter, call 238-6878, Ext. 6.

For general information about Children's Fairyland, call 452-2259.

Starko the Clown

The Oakland Public Library's Elmhurst Branch, 1427 88th Avenue, will present a special children's program featuring Starko the Clown at 2 p.m.

Starko will juggle, mime and teach children how to become a clown.

For information about this free event, call the Elmhurst Branch at 615-5727.

'Matters of Life and Death'

Ruth Botchan Dance Company and Friends present "Matters of Life and Death," June 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. and June 20 at 7 p.m.

We don't usually associate dancers with the topic of aging. If anything, we think of dance as the province exclusively of the young.

In "Matters of Life and Death," veteran choreographer Ruth Botchan, with guest artist Susan Cherniak from New York, present dances that tackle this subject we all must face.

The concert will feature Botchan's

new work "The Second Half of Joy."

The piece opens with a solo poem by Emily Dickinson about growing older, and is followed by a trio suggesting three stages of a woman's life.

Original music was composed for the piece by Bay Area composer Sarah Michael.

The dance focuses on the strength we gain from accepting the process of aging, letting go of previous stages of life, and coming to grips with life's inevitable end — "The truth we do not dare to face."

Also on the program will be "Slow Dance," performed by guest artist Jennifer Brightbill.

Tickets are \$14 general, \$12 for seniors and youth. Tickets are available at the door, or call 848-4878 for information and reservations.

Located at Western Sky Studio, 2525 8th St., at Dwight Way in Berkeley.

Robert Colescott exhibit

An exhibition of works by artist Robert Colescott is open at the UC-Berkeley Art Museum.

Colescott, is renowned for his energetic and emotionally charged paintings, which delve into issues of race, culture and sexual desire.

For information, call 642-0808.

UC-Berkeley art exhibit

Currently, an exhibition of works by candidates for the Master of Fine Arts degree at UC-Berkeley is open at the UC-Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive.

"Emergence: New Work by University of California at Berkeley Master of Fine Arts Graduates," serves as a culminating moment of each student's professional education, and will be the 29th annual exhibition of MFA students' works at the museum.

"Emergence" offers six artists an opportunity to work closely with the museum staff, and to present their work to the UC-Berkeley Museum's diverse audiences.

This year the exhibition brings to the museum works by artists Nina Lynn Bellisio, Jason Byers, Sook Im Choi, Elizabeth Demaray, Stephanie Anne Johnson and Katherine Shozawa.

Students will present work in a range of media, including photography, sound, installation and large-scale

constructions.

Some students have already exhibited extensively; for others, the exhibition represents the first major gallery or museum showing.

Located at 2626 Bancroft Way. Hours are Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. General Admission is \$6, Seniors and students 12-18 years \$4, UC Berkeley students and children under 12 are free. For information, call 642-0808.

Pirate Story

Women pirates? It's true. Throughout history many women have taken to sea. Some went disguised as men or boys, and some even sailed under the black flag.

The two most famous cross-dressing female pirates were Anne Bonny and Mary Read.

These two sailed with the flamboyant Capt. Jack Rackam, plundering the Caribbean together until their capture off the coast of Jamaica. All three were tried for piracy in 1720, and sentenced to death.

But there this strange tale takes an even stranger turn.

Based on the actual trial transcripts, and the fantastic tale of the "Women Pirates" in Capt. Charles Johnson's "General History of the Pirates," Central Works has devel-

oped a wildly theatrical look at the romance and the reality behind the two most notorious women pirates in history.

The cast of "Pirate Story" includes: Rica Anderson, recently seen in Central Works' "IRSNI Want You"; Louis Parnell, winner of three Drama-Logue Awards and one Bay Area Critics Circle Award; David Parr, whose directing and acting credits extend to many theater and opera companies throughout the Bay Area; and Central Works' own Jan Zvaifler, director of "MSNI Want You," and veteran of nine previous Central Works productions.

The world premiere of "Pirate Story" will be held at 427 Water St., in the heart of Jack London Square in Oakland. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 5 p.m.

Tickets are \$10-\$13. For reservations and information, call 510-558-1381

Children's Theater festival

The East Bay Children's Theatre Festival is coming to town at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts in Berkeley. Come celebrate the life of the imagination.

On the first four Sundays of every month, every child that attends the festival will be thrilled by professional performances, receive a free children's

theatre poster, and be mesmerized with balloon sculpting and summer storybook guests to delight the young and the young at heart.

Tickets are \$12.50 for adults, \$6.50 for children.

There is free admission for the child or adult on their birthday. Please note that performances on July 25, and Aug. 1 will be at 11 a.m.

For more information, please call 510-525-3948.

Alfy the Clown

The Oakland Public Library presents Alfy the Clown, bringing the comedy/magic show to entertainers of all ages at the following branches. Alfy will perform through July 14.

- Diamond Branch Library, 1400 Fruitvale Ave., June 8, 7 p.m.
- Rockridge Branch Library, 1400 College Ave., June 9, 7 p.m.
- Cesar Chavez Branch Library, 1900 Fruitvale Ave., June 17, 4 p.m.
- Melrose Branch Library, 1900 Bancroft Ave., June 26, 11 a.m.
- West Oakland Branch Library, 1801 Adeline St., June 29, 10:30 a.m.
- Golden Gate Branch Library, 550 San Pablo Ave., June 30, 10:30 a.m.
- Temescal Branch Library, 1801 Telegraph Ave., July 12, 10:30 a.m.
- Lakeview Branch Library, 550 Embarcadero, July 14, 10:30 a.m.

Stage

FROM PAGE C3

striction the builders of the Globe didn't have. No one wanted to lose the audience sightline to the hills of the Siesta Valley by blocking it with a canopy or roofline of the traditional Elizabethan stage house in the center of the stage.

Sinkkonen relied on creating the sense of a scene house by building a transparent canopy from which clouds and stars are suspended but through which the audience can see the hills.

By designing the wings of the set to reach somewhat into the seating area, eliminating several chairs with sightline problems, Lizzy also creates the illusion of the galleries that surround the audience at the Globe.

Harkening back to illusion and imagination is actually the most original aspect of Elizabethan theater the new set evokes.

"It's not all the lighting and scenery. All Shakespeare had was the words, and the burden is on the actors and the imagination," Sinkkonen said, remarking that "I could never paint scenery" like the open-

ing descriptive monologue of battle scenes in "Henry V."

Sinkkonen is also the set designer for the festival debut, "The Two Gentlemen of Verona." He is dressing the Elizabethan stage very sparingly, as they would have done in Shakespeare's day.

Actor Maceo Oliver has had the opportunity to act Shakespeare in a variety of venues and says "it's easier to make a choice that comes directly from the text" when playing in an Elizabethan house. He admits there is a romanticism involved in performing Shakespeare on the style of stage for which it was written.

"I haven't been able to experience Shakespeare like I have in an Elizabethan stage," Oliver said, who is playing Valentine in "Two Gentlemen."

He comments that the sheer size of the space, although invigorating with the amount of room it gives the actors to work, requires an adapted acting style.

"I am personally an actor who is more attuned to an intimate style and Shakespeare has altered that somewhat," he said.

Ed Hastings, director of "The Two Gentlemen of Verona," has directed

Shakespeare in the Elizabethan house in Ashland, Ore., in commercial theaters and outdoors. He describes the new set as having "the feeling of a public square, an open village in the middle of Orinda."

"When working on an Elizabethan set, you have a very strong skeleton for the performance. It's very helpful and kind of exacting when you find the right door. Shakespeare might have acted used," Hastings explained.

An Elizabethan set affords the opportunity for actors to walk the same paths walked by actors 400 years ago, but it does not necessarily date all plays be set in the time period for which Shakespeare wrote.

Right off the bat, some modern elements mixed in with the Renaissance set and costumes in "Two Gentlemen" will illustrate that the Elizabethan stage is as timeless as Shakespeare.

While the actors and directors about using Lizzy to enhance the work, Sinkkonen will sit in the audience and enjoy the view from the front. "There's this revival of interest and the audience likes to have authentic experience," he said.

Mann

FROM PAGE C3

The OTHER Jerry Brown: In the unlikely event you tune in KMAX, UPN's Channel 31 out of Sacramento (you'll need either a very strange cable system or a really big antenna) a couple of weeks from now, you may spot the station's new anchor—a guy named Jerry Brown. Or, as he'll no doubt be known soon, "the other Jerry Brown." Besides, having a famous political name didn't exactly hurt KRON's Pete Wilson, who made a lot more money than our state's former gov.

Speaking of D.C. anchor imports, expect the Bay Area's own, KRON "Daybreak" anchor Darya Folsom, back any day now from maternity leave. KCBS's ever-vigilant weatherman, Mike Pechner, says he heard Folsom say on the air just before leaving that she was only going to be gone three and a half weeks. That long, huh? (Less than a trimester.) As we mentioned here last week, considering her falling 5:30 a.m. ratings, Darya might wish to stay home a bit longer than that. And besides, KTVU's weekend anchor, new mom Julie Haener, looks positively radiant these days. She took two whole months off.

And speaking of catchy TV names, as we were two paragraphs above, here's my favorite recently: KVVU-TV in Las Vegas has just hired a new reporter. His name: Ted Pretty.

Is that the ultimate TV name, or what?

Short-attention-span dept.: Don't you wish we'd all hear more about pop singer Ricky Martin? I mean, how's the kid ever going to have a successful singing career if he's this publicity-shy? ... Someone really should tell the Sleep Train ad guys how lame their TV

spots are featuring that annoying couple in bed. It looks like the spots were all shot in one day on a cheapo budget. ... Please don't squeeze the Chairman: Don't miss "Great Leap" next Wednesday night at 10 p.m. on KQED. This must-see show is part of the 14-hour returning "People's Century" documentary series. Here's a crash course in the disastrous (and occasionally comical) social engineering that marked the first four decades of the People's Republic of China under Chairman Mao. If this were shown in TV in Beijing, it would ruin the party planned for October, when the PRC will celebrate its 50th. (That's about as likely to happen as Chiang Kai-Shek's portrait being hung in Tiananmen Square.) Nuttiness and tragic stupidity—it's all here in this great doc. You'll see the Mao-ordained backyard blast furnaces in which Chinese melted even their woks to make what turned out to be inferior and unusable steel — after deforesting most of the country for fuel. You'll learn about the widespread famine—a staggering 20 million Chinese starved—brought about when Communist communes falsified food-output statistics. (Making farmers produce steel didn't help, either.) Also shown is one of the looniest ideas of all—a nationwide drive to kill sparrows because they were supposedly eating Chinese crops. After many of the little birds were killed off, of course, the insect population soared—and crops truly were decimated. Having seen this, I'm now trying to remember exactly why I had that poster of Mao in my college dorm room in the '60s. ... Speaking of which, since we've bashed Letterman, let's bring back one of his classic old lines: "Two billion Chinese," Dave once marvelled, "and amazingly, not one of them is named Bubba."

Scores

FROM PAGE C3

the trumpeter interprets on "Jazz in Film" were celebrated in their day. Quincy Jones' highly effective score for Sidney Lumet's "The Pawnbroker" and Duke Ellington's raucous soundtrack for Otto Preminger's "Anatomy of a Murder" received almost as much attention as the films themselves.



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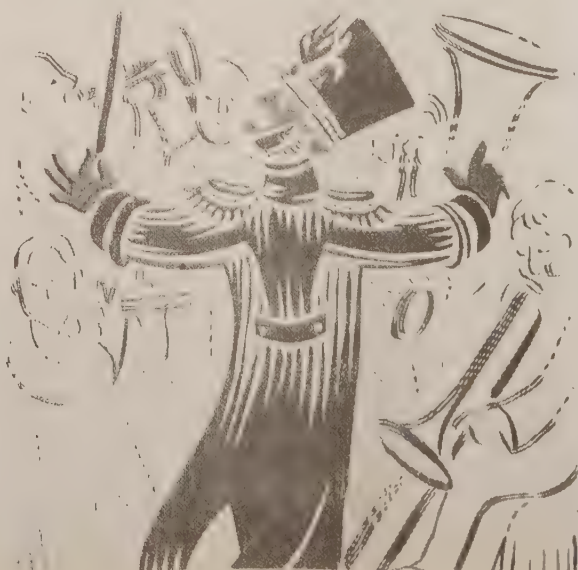
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dining room is good for groups.

Zesty mussels, with saffron, aioli and orange are piled high, and a rich dessert of warm chocolate pudding-cake, espresso ice cream and toasted nuts is enough to satisfy almost anyone. Lunch weekdays; dinner nightly.

The menu at Garibaldi's focuses on Mediterranean-style seafood, from tantalizing appetizers (baked oysters, scallop ceviche) to perfectly done entrees (grilled swordfish, spaghetti with scallops and prawns). For those who can afford it, and who can accept bustling energy in the stead of romantic ambience, Garibaldi's will keep them coming back. Major cards accepted and wheelchair accessible.

Nava Restaurant

5478 College Ave.
Rockridge (510) 655-4770

The best place in the East Bay to eat your last meal? That would be Nava, a new gem in Berkeley's culinary crown. This place is a winner and the bill of fare, which changes monthly to take exquisite advantage of peak seasonal ingredients, is downright fabulous.

The taste sensations here are seductive and varied, and it's a dull diner indeed who will not find him or herself calling the waiter over throughout the meal to offer clues

to some of the more exotic sauces and ingredients.

Every appetizer here is astounding, but the crab cakes are a knockout, enhanced by a range of exotic relishes, glazes, and sauces, on every menu so far. The menu features seven to eight entrees priced from \$11.94 to \$18 featuring fish, fowl, a vegetarian entree or two, and fabulous cuts of meat. After exchanging bites you will agree this is perhaps the best meal you have eaten in the last decade or so.

Jesso's Seafood

2817 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland (510) 451-1563
326 E. 18th Street, by the Lake At Park Boulevard, (510) 663-8333

If you want great seafood in generous proportions, great service and great surroundings then come to Jesso's Seafood. Only corn and canola oil are used in our cooking and a batter for Cajun cooked fish was developed by owner Jesso, who has been preparing fish for his family and friends for 15 years.

We feature oysters, salmon, fillet of sole, Red snapper, Buffalo fish and jumbo prawns, all cooked to order. Also try our famous farm raised catfish. All orders are prepared upon ordering and usually ready in 10 minutes or so.

The Telegraph restaurant hours are Monday through Thursday 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Closed Sundays.

The 18th Street restaurant hours are Monday through Thursday 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Closed Sundays.

Phone orders accepted by calling us at 451-1561, 663-8333 or Faxing us at (510) 451-1563

Julia Morgan Theater

2640 College Ave. Berkeley
(510) 883-7038

The Julia Morgan Center is proud to announce the American Broadway Music Festival. For six weekends beginning May 29, the theatre will resound with classic American showtunes, jazz and gospel.

Tickets range from \$10 to \$25, and all show begin at 8 p.m. except for the July 4 matinee at 4 p.m. See the display ad on this page for specific show titles.

Continuing every Saturday, the Julia Morgan Center offers Theatre Rats Saturday Camp. Kids ages 6 1/2 to 13 can participate in singing, dancing, acting, swimming, and having fun! Prices are \$35 for one day or \$120 for four sessions.

Coming this summer are full two-week Theatre Rats sessions. For more information on these or other Julia Morgan Theater shows call (510) 84-JULIA.

King Shang

5912 College Ave. - Rockridge
Oakland - (510) 498-1823

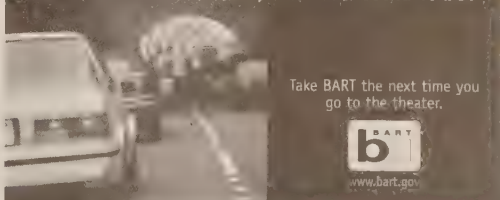
Now open in the Rockridge, King Shang features tantalizing Chinese cuisine in a wonderful, commodious ambience. Outdoor patio with full service dining is available.

Owner has twenty years of experience and unique knowledge of Chinese-style cooking. From sizzling rice soup and potsticker appetizers to the sweet and sour chicken and mui shu vegetable, the zesty aromas and flavors are refreshing.

Lunch and dinner feature best Mandarin, Hunan and Szechwan specialties in Oakland. Their courteous, fast service and moderate menu prices put this restaurant in the favorites category.

King Shang is open everyday from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Wheelchair accessible. All major credit cards accepted.

Let's drive to the theater, how bad could it be?



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This fine dining establishment will bring back memories for transplanted New Yorkers and create new ones for the Californian looking for a taste of "Little Italy." The ambience is abundant.

Outdoor, cafe style dining coupled with an intimate, formal indoor seating offer you the best of both worlds while enjoying the sumptuous cuisine. Dining is only part of what makes Sergio's such an outstanding restaurant. The waiters help customers determine which entree will please the individuals' palate. Seafood, pasta, chicken, meat, plus daily specials are featured. Italian born owner, Sergio, feels his food is extra pleasing because "It's prepared with extra amore." Recently re-decorated, Sergio's Trattoria is more inviting than ever. Dine inside, or outdoors in the heated patio.

The easy listening Italian background music adds to a touch of romance to the intimate setting. Live music on weekends. Reservations recommended. Banquet facilities for small groups available. Dining at Sergio's is truly an authentic Italian experience. Wheelchair accessible.

The Ark - Pier 29

300-29th Ave. - Oakland
(510) 261-1621

Located at the foot of the Park Street Bridge, The Ark at Pier 29 is a bright spot on the Oakland-Alameda estuary. In addition to the welcome ambience and hearty fare, the nautical theme alone is worth a look-see. Decorations include original shipboard equipment, paintings, photographs and hand-crafted ship models. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served daily.

The portions are very generous and the food delightfully pleasing. The menu includes fresh seafood, steaks, chicken and daily specials. The Ark serves breakfast daily. Indulge in traditional egg dishes, seafood crepes, egg benedict, home baked muffins and much more. Plenty of free parking, or sail over and tie up at the 80-foot guest berth. Bring your appetite! Open seven days.

The Reef

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(510) 836-2519

It's comforting to know that good food awaits you -- along with a waterfront location overlooking a

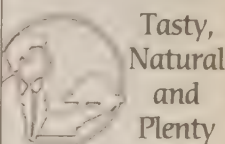
marina. At The Reef restaurant you get a combination of quality fresh fish bought daily, with the culinary expertise from the same owners for 17 years.

Open Tuesday thru Sunday for lunch and dinner the menu features grilled, sautéed, broiled or Cajun seafood. Salmon, swordfish, halibut, prawns and year-round lobster plus seasonal specials are prepared to your liking. Sauces include curry, champagne, and various Thai specials.

The Reef Restaurant is located about one mile south of Jack London Square off 880 freeway -- look for their sign along the freeway. Free parking and a complimentary guest dock make this a good destination by land or sea.

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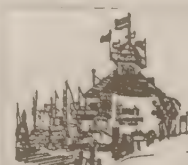
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NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CHOICE WORDS

BY DAVID J. KAHN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

No. 0606

Hard Clues

ACROSS

- 1 Doesn't stop cold turkey
10 Chooses
13 First call?
17 Hesitant
23 No longer painful
24 Like a chandelier
26 Kind
27 It may pick up in the afternoon
28 Like most bottles
29 Turn out
30 Hear
31 Fished in crevices
32 Performer of complicated operations
34 Toulouse time
35 — Day
37 Pertaining to church taxes, old-style
38 See 83-Across
40 Ground for a claim
43 Unbalanced
47 Testify
49 Tighten
51 Cavern
52 Utter
54 Descendant of Muhammad the Prophet
55 Spread out
58 Like some traditions
60 Mount Vernon, e.g.
62 Treasured instrument
64 Dwight Eisenhower's mother's name
65 With judgment
67 Flushed
70 Windy City rail system, briefly
73 Isn't cautious (with)
76 "Buy" or "sell," say
77 Word in Kansas motto
79 Like
80 Hopper
81 Mathematician
82 Legalistic adjective
83 With 38-Across, popular entertainment
85 5.5-point type sizes
87 View
90 "Description of the World" writer
92 Connected
93 Mescaline source
94 Kind of vaccine
95 Work on
96 With the bow, in music
97 Shade of green
98 Year the Roman writer Persius died
100 Fictional lawyer
101 Tell-tale weapon?
106 Reason for coyness, maybe
110 Exercise
112 Liaison
113 Subject of Project Blue Book
114 Put on the shelf
116 Kid
117 Blatherskite
118 Early game score
120 Milking area
121 Nut
124 "Ah'm — it!"
125 New Jersey —

DOWN

- 126 Bridge comment
130 Childish doings?
132 Earthquake aftermath
134 Isolate
136 Duplicate
137 More subtle
138 Crayola shade
140 Verse style
143 Debussy subject
146 Shows level-headedness
153 Feuding
154 Can
155 "An Old-Fashioned Girl" author, 1870
156 Entertaining thoughts
157 Cooks
159 Top
160 Fertilizer ingredients
161 Like most paparazzi
162 Volleyball player
163 Wraps up, so to speak
164 TV drama settings
165 Place for verbal expression
1 DOWN
1 Soupçon
2 Whistle, maybe
3 Old-time entertainer
4 "Chicago" lyricist Fred
5 Goes back over
6 Shooter's supply
7 1887 La Scala premiere
8 Hats with tassels: Var.
9 "The Godfather, Part II" character
10 Tough luck, in Britain
11 Medicare cutback proponents?
12 Hit hard
13 "Immediately!"
14 Up
15 Bringing down
16 Crane

DOWN

- 17 John Huston's film-directing debut
18 Opposite of smooth
19 Big bird: Var.
20 Chapter
21 "A Loss of Roses" playwright
22 Fantail, for one
25 "It —" ("Who's there?" response)
26 Cry before disaster
28 Colorado natives
29 Kind of valve
30 One-time military engineer for Cesare Borgia
31 "It's tied at the back"
32 Dear people?
34 Deep intermission
35 Part of a football play diagram
36 "Symphonie espagnole" composer
37 Tangy ethnic food
38 One of the Channel Islands
39 Group with Grammy's 1982 Record of the Year
40 Word with sing or string
41 Mailing to a casting director
42 They don't take turns
43 Some canines
44 Nonsense
45 Wing, say
46 Model
47 Upstairs, in Uruguay
48 Igneous rock far beneath the earth's surface
49 Dear people?
50 Intermittent
51 Part of a football play diagram
52 Like some bedsheet corners, in Britain
53 Blind, as grass stalks
54 Setting of many Stephen King novels
55 Detaches, in a way
56 Printing amount
57 Poet's eye
58 Rupture
59 Filers with wedge-shaped tails
60 Six-time Rose Bowl winner, for short
61 Billion years
62 Major fishing area in the Pacific Rim
63 Blows away, so to speak
64 Latin pronoun
65 Order to a typographer
66 Family dogs
67 Latin pronoun
68 Macintosh, e.g.
69 Plug
70 Animal locations
71 — stroke
72 Spot
73 Rounder than round

DOWN

- 74 Roy Orbison classic
75 How complainers complain
76 It can put you to sleep
77 "The French Lieutenant's Woman" author
78 Appalachian feature
79 Apology preceptor
80 Alpha, beta, gamma, etc.
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Calendar

Submissions to Goings on About Town must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis.

Classes

Registration is open for Vista Community College's 1999 summer session. Apply now through June 25. The session takes place June 21-July 31. The enrollment fee is \$12 per unit for California residents. Students can fill out an admissions application in person, use the touch-tone, or via the Internet at <http://www.peralta.cc.ca.us>. Vista is located at 2020 Milvia St. between University and Addison. Call 841-8860, ext. 231 or 267 for more information.

Life Stories/Collage and Ceramics classes forming at St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave., Tuesday mornings 9 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. Free. Sponsored by Berkeley Adult School. Teachers are Diana Bohn and Judith Carroll. Call 845-6830 for additional information.

Contemporary Women's Issues class is forming at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St. Free class offered by the Berkeley Adult School, taught by Judith Carroll, MFCC. Friday mornings 10 a.m. to noon. Open to all women 55 or older. Call 644-6107 for additional information.

Dance and Fitness Classes open to

all in flamenco, Afro-Brazilian, belly-dance, salsa, swing, ballroom, tap, the-atre dance, yoga, chi gung, tai chi, aikido, pilates-based body conditioning and more at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Drop in fees: \$8-10. Information: 848-6370.

Let's Swing and Jitterbug: 7 p.m. beginning classes, 8 p.m. intermediate; four-week dance classes beginning the first Tuesday of the month; Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley; Diana Castillo, 549-3591; \$40 for four classes.

Health

YWCA Health and Community Education: drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way; 848-6370; \$8 - \$10.

Community

The Albany High School Class of 1974 is celebrating its 25th year reunion. The reunion is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 14 at Scott's Seafood Bar and Grill in Jack London Square, Oakland. The evening begins at 6 p.m. with no host cocktails, followed by dinner and dancing. Cost per person is \$60. All RSVPs are due by July 10. Call the Reunion Committee at 525-4793 for additional information.

A "Celebration Honoring Susan Fe-

lix" noted Bay Area artist and non-profit housing developer for 20 years of barrier-breaking work. Entertainment by Frog Legs, Cajun Dance and singer Linda Hirschhorn. The party runs from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz on San Pablo Ave at Gilman St. Donation \$10-\$20. For more information and reservations, call 524-1029.

The Friends of the Albany Library Book Sale takes place June 19 and 20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany.

The Anna Davidson Rosenberg Award for Poems on the Jewish Experience announces its 1999 competition. Sponsored by the Judah Magnes Jewish Museum, it is the only major nationwide/international competition for unpublished poetry in English on the Jewish experience. Writers should first send a self-addressed stamped envelope for entry form and guidelines by July 31, to Poetry Award, Judah Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St., Berkeley, CA 94705.

Toastmasters, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice—Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for additional information.

Civil Rights activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington. P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA, 94701.

The City of El Cerrito is accepting job applications for 1999 Summer Employment, day camp and pool staff positions. Ages 15 plus (must have job permit if under 18) Ages 12+ for volunteers. Applications may be picked up at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moers Lane, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For information call 215-4370.

"Work Buddies": volunteers needed to perform volunteer work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 644-8292.

Psychic Healing clinic: 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays; free clinic at the Academy for Psychic Studies in Berkeley, aura cleansing, stress relief; 1-800-642-9355.

SMART project: the Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley is conducting a study to compare the cost and effectiveness of two kinds of substance abuse day treatment: medical model day treatment and social model day treatment. By calling 1-888-249-8802 and agreeing to do three interviews, individuals chosen for the study receive free treatment at existing treatment programs.

The Edible Schoolyard, an organic gardening and cooking program at Berkeley's King Middle School, seeks volunteers to work with students, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 558-1335 for information.

English-In-Action lets you make friends from around the world. Volunteer as a conversation partner with a foreign U.S. scholar/student for one hour a week. YWCA, at Berkeley, Call 843-9716.

Women's Daytime Drop-In Center in Berkeley, serving women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, needs volunteers. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For more information, call 466-5663.

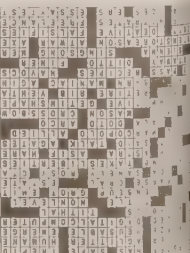
Exhibits

Sticks Fine Art Gallery and Custom Picture Framing, 1579 Solano, presents the paintings of David Martin, opening June 11 and continuing through July 29. An opening reception takes place on Friday June 11 from 7 to 9 p.m. Call 526-6603 for additional information.

The first Annual Fire Arts Festival will be held at the Crucible on June 12, at 7:30 p.m. The Crucible, 1035 Murray St., Berkeley, is a non-profit educational foundry, metal fabrication shop and

sculpture studio that offers hands-on training in the industrial arts. Donations encouraged. The Crucible is open Monday through Friday, 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends. Additional information call 843-5511.

See CALENDAR, Page C7



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FROM PAGE C8

CCI Gallery and The Berkeley Flonst
present "Garden Art," an exhibit featuring
wood and metal sculpture, ceramic

American Schizophrenia Association — Alliance for the Mentally ill (ASAMI) is sponsoring a new support group

There will be a Town Hall Meeting for seniors on Friday, June 18, 10 a.m. to noon, in the Bermuda Room in the Richmond Civic Plaza. Supervisor John Giola will listen to concerns about transportation, housing medical care, Medicare and prescription cost, in-home care services, elder abuse, long term care and other social services. A no-cost lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m. The meeting is sponsored by the West County Senior

Spirituality and Healing. Voices of Healing Story Circles. Spiritually oriented healing group for people living with life-threatening illness. Meets second Wednesday of each month in North

Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters:
meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursday
of the month from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Call 643-7645

Toastmasters: noon - 1 p.m. Tuesday

A Gospel Play by Perfect Peach Church, Pastor Donald Bowen and the Congregation presents "Because He Lives" on June 19 and 20 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20, \$15 and \$10. The performance was held in the church last year. This year it is available to the public. Reserve seats early. Call 863-7018 for additional information.

The Golden Gate International Children's Choral Festival takes

Advertising Feature

by James M. Harris, DVM, Montclair Veterinary Hospital

cleared of these weeds. Ideally, they should be pulled up and bagged before they go to seed. When walking dogs, stay away from areas where the Fox Tails are growing. When returning from walks be sure to check between all toes for grass seeds and remove any that are found. If a draining wound is observed between toes, a pet starts to shake its head or sneeze violently, or there is discharge from an eye, be sure to have your veterinarian check your pet. Not doing so could result in permanent damage.



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45 Woodminster Lane, Oakland
(510) 531-0121

[illegible]

Artist helps community tap into the power of 'art in service'

In 1996 Carole Fitzgerald had an idea, and when she submitted it to the City of Albany, they were enthusiastic, too. Carole, an Albany artist, wanted the citizens of Albany to paint banners that would then be mounted on the light poles along Solano Avenue, for the delight of all passers by.

With the cooperation of the city, of several places where workplaces were available, and certainly of the many people who were drawn by her program, Carole held workshops for interested people — children and adults — where they could create their banners.

The banners were completed in late Spring, and were hung then and through the summer. Each year since then they have been hung at the same time, bright, imaginative banners which brighten up Solano avenue and bring joy to all of those who look up and see them.

So, look up, folks, for they hang there now. And Carole Fitzgerald, after four years, wanted to know how the artists of that time view their masterpieces now. So she called together as many of the some 150 people who had worked on them to come and discuss what they had done. I was supposed to be there, also, but, alas, personal problems prevented that. So Carole taped their conversations for my benefit.

It was a large and unusual group, those people who worked together to create the banners. There were children and adults, often parents and children working together; there were rank amateurs and professional artists, and several in-betweens. Carole held the workshops in whatever venue was large enough and was open to her, so that people worked at the community centers in Albany, Live Oak Park and University Village; in the Memorial Park Friendship Club and the Albany Teen Center.

When she called people asking them to attend the "look back and remember" session, one mother said her sons, now teen agers, were no longer happy with what they had done, and wanted nothing more to do with it. Others, however, were delighted to talk about it and to remember the joy of creativity. Many who were unable to attend reported that they remembered the project fondly and looked forward to seeing their work exhibited each year.

Few children were able to attend. Fitzgerald says "kids pretty much live in the moment, and are just too busy these days." Two young girls did attend, Emma Corum and Bethany Woulman, and they expressed their joy in taking part in the project, and in seeing their work exhibited each year.

Many of the adults also spoke fondly of the time spent at the workshops and the fun of working with others on such a project. One artist said she had never worked on such a large project, and it was a real chal-

lenge to her. In fact, almost everybody was surprised at the dimensions. Of course they had to be very large to be seen and appreciated from a distance. One father remembered that his daughter Anna was delighted when, unable to reach the table and her work, she was allowed to climb up on the table and paint there.

There was also a group of Arch Street neighbors in Berkeley who held a potluck discussion of their group symbols, and how they would work as a unit on one painting, and did the work in the evenings. The Albany Arts Committee also did a group painting. Said Carole, "I gave the Arts Committee the theme, 'Impressions of Spring', paper and pencil, chalk and a banner, paint and brushes. Then I stood back and let the group dynamics unfold." and she adds, "We have a great group of artists on this committee who support each other and Albany."

The project was sponsored by Solano Avenue Association, with funding sources at the city of Albany and the city of Berkeley. Carole especially thanked Mitch Grashin of the SAA, who backed and supported her through the entire project.

Says Fitzgerald, "When art is in service it taps into the deeper role art can play, not about competition

Community Folk

By Clara-Rae Genser

but expressions and vision, bringing people together as we replan and restructure our communities. My friend, John Steere calls this 'Social Ecology.'

Carole, who was hired last year by the city of San Pablo to do a similar program for their 50th anniversary celebration, says, "I have not heard one negative comment about this. On the contrary, the reactions have all been very positive."

And in remembering the entire project, Carole says, "children paint so freely, and with such joy. This project gave the adults that same freedom for their painting."

And as you walk up or down Solano, and look up, you get the same feeling of freedom and joy that the artists had in creating it.

I was pleased that Carole invited me to join in her art project remem-



COMMUNITY EFFORT: Participants in 'Impressions of Spring', conceived by Albany artist Carole Fitzgerald, made banners that decorate Solano Avenue each spring.

bered, and regret only that I was unable to be there during the discussion.

Please give me your input: interesting people, events, organizations, etc. Please write to me at 555 Pierce St., #443, Albany, CA 94706 or call 525-4585; My email is crgensen@aol.com.

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The Auto Section

The Montclarion, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, Alameda Journal

June 10-11, 1999

Section D

New Models The 1999 Acura 3.5RL isn't cheap, but it is stylish [D2]

Car Care The Auto Doctor diagnoses poor gas mileage [D2]

Classified Hills Newspapers is your community marketplace [D8]

Lincoln LS Sedan brings it home to Europe

Strong, stylish domestic luxury car makes its mark

By Arnold Wechter

NORTH AMERICAN AUTO WRITERS SYNDICATE
SAN FRANCISCO — Lincoln in its new LS Sedan has accomplished what domestic auto makers have often promised but failed to deliver — a true sport sedan in the European manner.

The LS can stand proudly besides similar cars from Mercedes-Benz, BMW, Audi and Lexus. It has all the same virtues — rear drive, a taut suspension, V-6 or optional V-8 power, stick shift or automatic transmission and slick styling.

The LS provides a new look with classic body lines and proportions, a wide track, and an engine compartment capable of handling both a V-6 and V-8 engines.

The design team said the front end is upright to follow the visual theme of the Lincoln marquee, particularly the Navigator. Detail elements such as the door handles, the round head lamps, and the grille all stress functionality.

A combination of a long wheel base with a very short front overhang gives the car a performance-oriented flair.

To appeal to traditional American customers with a new entry like the LS, Lincoln acknowledges that their values and



BUILT on the same platform as the acclaimed S Jaguar sedan, the LS has race-bred credentials. Its suspension and handling teams are composed of race course veterans. Moreover, extensive use of body aluminum and positioning the battery in the trunk gives the LS excellent balance, yielding near-50/50 weight distribution.

See LINCOLN, Page D5

Drive, she said

By Denise McLuggage



Denise McLuggage

Don't get left in the lurch — you're probably already paying for help. Read your insurance contract.

Know your roadside aid options

If your car died on the highway while darkness lowered in a pelting rain, what would you do? Perhaps you would dial up a number your dealer told you about and help would be at your side in, on average, under an hour. Whether this happens, however, depends on your knowing the answers to these three questions:

- Does the maker of your car have an emergency roadside assistance plan?
- Is your particular car eligible for that plan?
- Are you aware of the plan?

See AID, Page D5

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1999 Acura flagship 3.5RL engines 'all ahead full'

Acura's flagship is configured for the high Cs. The 3.5RL sedan has carefree comfort, charming chassis, choice of colors, plus a cavernous cargo container. But it's not cheap.

Keane on Wheels

By Tom Keane



Tom Keane

"Acura did more than simply firm up the chassis. They re-sculpted the exterior..."

This is their big-bucks car, it goes for \$44,464. That price included their only option on my tester: floor mats that cost \$109. You'd think that Acura would toss them in for free, but the floor mats, along with shipping and handling (\$455), were their necessary add-ons.

It reminds me of cars of years ago. They didn't have floor mats in those days, but the heater, side-view mirror, radio, clock, and hub caps were optional. Then you'd go to an aftermarket store to buy seat covers.

How times have changed. You wouldn't want to put slip covers over the leather trimmed seats that respond eight power-operated ways to conform to an exact fit; four ways for the passenger seat.

Not only are the seats heated, but their positions also can be recorded for each driver's specific request. Even the day/night rearview mirror and telescopic tilt steering column readjust according to the driver's preset instructions.

As for how the clock, radio and heater compare to yesterday, the digital clock is extremely accurate, and the radio is a BOSE system with



THE 1999 ACURA 3.5RL is a fun, spirited luxury sedan. It's all yours for a base price of \$43,900.

AM/FM cassette, plus a six-disc CD changer with additional audio controls mounted on the steering wheel. The "heater" in this sophisticated luxury sedan consists of an automatic climate control system with a micron air filter. It also has a thermometer to indicate the outside temperature.

For those preferring to breathe outdoor air, there is a moonroof with a tilt feature. And all this is set off with

camphor wood trimmed elegance.

Another reason this is an enjoyable luxury sedan is the engine is ready to accelerate quickly at the drop of a foot. I'm not referring to 100-mph speeds; such speeds aren't useful. Where I found it beneficial is being able to enter a freeway and almost immediately be up to speed.

And the electronically controlled automatic transmission has "grade

logic" to reduce the annoying shifting when driving up or down hills.

The 3.5RL has a 3.5-liter V6 engine. The body on the 1999 model is more rigid which provides better handling. The firmer unibody also reduces the interior vibration and noise level. Another improvement is the re-tuned suspension system, which has resulted in a quieter car than the earlier models.

But Acura did more than simply firm up the chassis. They re-sculpted the exterior. This beauty now has a wider stance, giving the car better road stability and more eye appeal. I'm told the new body styling has also improved its aerodynamics.

In the center console area is a navigational system that requires study to understand how it operates. But for those who are informed, they

SPECIFICATIONS

1999 ACURA 3.5RL

- VEHICLE TYPE
5-passenger, 4-door luxury sedan
- BASE PRICE
\$43,900 (as tested: \$44,464)
- ENGINE TYPE
V6, SOHC 24-valve w/PGV
- DISPLACEMENT
3.5-liter
- HORSEPOWER (net)
210 at 5200 rpm
- TORQUE (lb-ft)
224 at 2800 rpm
- TRANSMISSION
4-speed automatic
- WHEELBASE
115 in. or 2910mm
- TREAD (front/rear)
61 / 60 in. or 1550 / 1540mm
- OVERALL LENGTH
195 in. or 4955 mm
- OVERALL WIDTH
72 in. or 1822 mm
- HEIGHT
56 in. or 1435 mm
- TURNING CIRCLE (curb-to-curb)
36 ft. or 11 m
- CURB WEIGHT
3,480 lbs. or 1742 kg
- FUEL CAPACITY
18 gals. 68 L
- EPA MILEAGE RATING
18 city, 24 highway
- ASSEMBLY PLANT
Sayama, Japan
- STRONG FEATURE
Power, comfort
- WEAK FEATURE
Floor mats

Saab 9-5 wagon pulls its weight; guns for Audi, Volvo, BMW

Minivans sliced sharply into domestic station wagon sales once they were introduced. Eventually, minivans even displaced most wagons as the primary transportation choice of suburban moms. That's why Detroit interest in wagons waned and focused on more profitable minivans.

Luxury European carmakers, always in search of a niche to exploit, never abandoned the station wagon. In fact, the Europeans are currently sparking a wagon renaissance.

Volvo is the biggest player in this niche, but Audi, BMW and Mercedes also have new models in the segment. Recently, Saab became the latest entry in the niche when they introduced the 9-5 station wagon.

The Euro wagons are an attempt to cash in on a market Detroit spurns. What promotes growing interest in European wagons is their sporty handling and spirited performance.

Most of the wagons from Europe give the performance of hot sport sedans, a far cry from the lumbering wagons Detroit used to turn out.

The Saab 9-5 station wagon is the latest entry in this segment and proves that a vehicle built to haul cargo can also provide a ride that rivals many sports cars.

Saab's new wagon expands its

Down the Road

By Herb Shuldiner



Herb Shuldiner

"Euro wagons are an attempt to cash in on a market Detroit spurns..."

limited model portfolio and should enable it to compete a little more with Volvo and other European luxury brands that already have wagons in their model lineup.

Chip Wilkerson, product manager for the 9-5 wagon, the first of that type from Saab in 25 years, forecasts Saab will sell 3,800 wagons this year. But Saab could manufacture up to 5,000 if the marketplace demands, he says. Saab hopes to seize a 6.3-percent share of the luxury wagon segment that Wilkerson predicts will total 60,000 units this year.

The 9-5 station wagon is Saab's latest new product designed to ignite a comeback for the Swedish car-

maker. Saab has already rung up record sales for this decade and is positioning itself to surpass its all-time record volume racked up in the mid-1980s.

The new wagon is positioned to compete with the Audi A6 Avant, Volvo V70 and V70GLT, and BMW 5 Series wagon (excluding model with eight-cylinder engine).

Other European wagons are more expensive. Saab intends to price the 9-5 wagon below the cost of the competitors. The 2.3t wagon with a four-cylinder engine has a sticker price of \$31,850. The six-cylinder 3.0t wagon is \$36,900.

Wilkerson believes 87 percent of the 9-5 wagon volume will be conquest sales. Sport utility vehicle defectors are expected to make up 7 percent of 9-5 wagon buyers, Wilkerson says. He is particularly looking at Volvo wagon owners, because the 9-5 wagon is claimed to be better value-priced than its Swedish competitor.

The Saab wagon also has more cargo space than the V70 and a cargo floor that slides out to ease loading. Heavy-duty tie-down anchors are a significant feature in the rear cargo area. The hardware is actually strong enough to support the weight of the entire vehicle which ranges from 3,640 to 3,760 pounds.



THE SAAB WAGON 9-5 has cargo features that include a floor that slides out for ease of loading, plus heavy-duty tie-down anchors. Saab hopes to sell 3,800 this year, but can gear up to produce 5,000 if consumers fall in love.

Poor gas mileage has many causes, most correctable

Dear Doctor: I own a 1997 Chevrolet S-10 extended cab pickup 4.3-liter V6 automatic transmission 3:42.1 rear end. My problem is poor gas mileage. It has never gotten more than 12 miles per gallon on the highway. My last combination city and highway mileage was just under 10 mpg. I have been back to the dealer and they said there are no trouble codes in the computer and everything checks out. I like the truck, but not the gas mileage. What do you think? Ron

Dear Ron: Your gas mileage seems low. If your truck was actually using as much gas as you claim, the spark

Ask the Auto Doc

By Junior Damato



Junior Damato

"Has anyone checked the speedometer and odometer for accuracy?"

plugs should be black, and the oxygen sensor would store a code in the computer for always trying to correct the rich condition. The catalytic converter would have an odor of rotten eggs. You mention the 3:42.1 axle ratio; has anyone checked the speedometer and odometer for accuracy? Did the dealer check the actual oxygen sensor operation or fuel pressure? How about a smog test out the tail pipe? These are all items that need to be checked. Your truck, like all vehicles from 1996 on, has a very efficient computer system that will set off a check engine light on the smallest malfunction.

Jeep Grand Cherokee squeak

Dear Doctor: My daughter owns a 1994 Jeep Grand Cherokee 4x2 six-cylinder. The front end has some squeaking sounds. Is there anything that can be done to eliminate the squeaks, besides replacing the front end bushings? Jim

Dear Jim: You will need to find where the squeak is actually coming from. It may be one bushing that only needs some grease or spray lubrication.

See AUTODOC, Page D5

The Auto Section

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Ford's free trunk release lacks clout of \$50 GM system

By Jim Mateja
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO — And the winner is... May be.

The folks from Dearborn, Mich., will offer an emergency trunk release on their 2000 model cars free of charge, which, of course, means nothing.

The loser is General Motors, which will offer an emergency trunk release system on its 2000 model cars, but will charge \$50 for it.

The reason automakers are offering emergency trunk releases is that 19 children have died in the last decade after inadvertently locking themselves in trunks, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

And of those deaths, a staggering 11 occurred last summer, prompting safety advocates to demand an emergency release feature quickly, and the automakers are responding.

One's free; one costs \$50. Free wins every time. Or does it?

In comparing the Ford trunk release system to the GM system, we find Ford's may be free, but it does-

n't offer the same — or as many — features as GM's.

In fact, when it comes to how the system works, GM is the winner, even if it costs \$50 more than Ford.

Ford will be the first major carmaker to install an emergency trunk release as standard on all 2000 Ford, Lincoln and Mercury cars sold in the U.S. and Canada this fall.

GM will be the first major carmaker to install an emergency trunk release as an option on all its 2000 model cars.

But GM is adding the emergency trunk release systems on its 1999 cars as well as preparing to offer them on its 2000 vehicles, except for the Chevrolet Metro and Prizm built by Suzuki and Toyota, respectively. And the GM system can be retrofitted back to 1990 models, except Metro and Prizm. The Ford system can't be retrofitted.

The Ford system features a cable-operated release in the trunk, basically a T-shaped handle made of a glow-in-the-dark material so kids trapped inside can see it.

The Ford T-shaped handle is white with pictures of a car and an

open trunk and a person jumping out of that trunk, a sort of step-by-step progression of messages for the child to follow.

Once light hits the phosphorescent handle, even briefly, it will glow for two to three hours after the trunk is closed, giving the child two to three hours to find the handle hanging overhead and decipher the message.

The problem is that in conducting research using kids, GM found they usually don't look up for a handle overhead. And sometimes when they see a light, they equate it with heat and are afraid to touch it.

The GM handle, similar to a long, slender door lever, is in the sidewall of the trunk, not overhead, so it can be seen, and contains light-emitting diodes to reduce the chance kids will consider it too hot to touch.

Another potential problem with the Ford setup is that the phosphorescent plastic handle must be exposed to light in order for it to glow in the dark for two to three hours. There is more than one scenario we could envision in which a child could be trapped in a trunk that hasn't recently been exposed to light or in

which the trunk is opened at night or in darkened garage.

Ford also did nothing to make it more difficult for kids to get in the trunk. At GM, the emergency trunk release incorporates tethers attached to the rear seat backs so they won't

open and allow a child to slip through. It takes the strength and ingenuity of an adult to release the tethers.

And, once the trunk lid is open on a GM car with the emergency-release system, a bolt slips over the outside

latch so the lid can't be closed without sliding the bolt out of the way.

The Ford system has no such tethers barring access from the back seat and no sliding bolt to prevent the lid from shutting after a child hops in the trunk.



REAR-FACING center console entertainment unit with 6.4-inch screen, VCR, headphones and Nintendo.

Minivan video arcades hit streets

There's a new weapon to use in the struggle to keep kids amused and parents free from distraction in the car. Following hard on the heels of the Oldsmobile Silhouette Premiere edition (which has a VCR and TV), is the Visteon Rear Seat Entertainment System.

This system is available now on high new car dealerships and can be installed as an option on any new minivan, or as an aftermarket device on minivans from 1994 to the present. The unique mobile video system fits into all new minivans and offers a suggested retail price of \$399, which includes installation.

Nintendo 64 game system. Visteon makes the point that the Rear Seat Entertainment System is only entertainment unit of its kind that comes with a Nintendo 64 game system. It's loaded with the best quality features consumers have been asking for. These must-include features include:

• High-quality resolution 6.4" automotive grade screen offering clarity in all types of lighting conditions, and durability through rough environmental conditions. • VHS videocassette player. • A "superior" design with a hi-contrast screen for theft deterrence and a smoother interior appearance.

• Floor-mounted console, with game and cup holders, that creates a cool and feel of an original equipment accessory.

The Visteon Rear Seat Entertainment System takes both long distance traveling and around-town commuting to a whole new dimension, says David Peace, vice president of Visteon Global Aftermarket Operations. The system is designed to help kids battle back seat boredom, allowing them to play video games and watch their favorite

Aftermarket Reviews

By Alex Law



Alex Law

"The Rear Seat Entertainment System can be installed by the dealer and comes with a same-as-vehicle warranty..."

movies. Best of all, Rear Seat Entertainment provides peace-of-mind for the parents who can better concentrate on the road ahead."

Peace believes that, "This is an exciting innovation in mobile electronics and having Nintendo partner with us was the icing on the cake. Nintendo has built an extremely popular and respected brand name in the entertainment industry and the ability to offer a Nintendo 64 game system certainly enhances the Rear Seat Entertainment System's consumer appeal."

On new minivans, the Rear Seat Entertainment System can be installed by a dealer the same day and comes with the same-as-vehicle warranty. In addition, the cost of the system can be amortized, allowing buyers to spread out the payments with the vehicle purchase. The system can also be retrofitted on minivans built in 1994 through present. The warranty for retrofitted units is one year from the time of installation.

■ For a lot less money, you can put a basic TV system in your vehicle. The Whistler Auto TV lists for \$399.95, has built-in speakers, a small remote control device, and an earphone that allows private listening.

The screen is only 4 inches wide and 2 inches thick, so it can bolt to any number of places inside a vehicle. It also tilts various ways, comes with an anti-glare screen, and has an aerial. The aerial will be important since it may have to be adjusted to keep the picture clear while the vehicle is in motion. Call 800/SKY MALL, and ask for item 224238D.

■ You don't have to spend a fortune to get computerized trip information, thanks to a decision by AAA and Ultradrive to lower the price on their TripWizard hand-held system. For \$49.95, you can try TripWizard on a 30-day trial. During that time, you'll see how useful it is to have AAA information on more than 100,000 services across the U.S. It's just as handy to have turn-by-turn directions to those places from the Interstate you're on.

TripWizard gives directions between 250 major U.S. cities, as well as distances and drive times to over 12,000 towns along the I-roads and the byways. To order, call 800/SKY MALL, and ask for #29949M.

■ I've always been a sucker for new gadgets, and now there's the new inflatable HandiRack. This \$99.99 device sits empty in its container until needed to carry anything from canoes to 2x4s. Apply a little air from the hand pump, attach it to the roof, tie down whatever it is you're carrying (with the \$9.99 Superties), and away you go. It works with regular cars and sport-utes, but will not work with minivans with sliding doors; it is the hinged doors, after all, that secure the system in place on the roof. To order the HandiRack, which does not scratch the surface and can be used with a sunroof. Call 800/SKY MALL.

Editorial comment

What do you think about the merits of consumer goods such as Visteon's Rear Seat Entertainment System, as noted above? Alex Law says the units are "must-haves." Are they in demand among our readers? Law quotes David Peace, vice president of Visteon Global Aftermarket Operations, who touts "a whole new dimension of travel" as "designed to help kids battle back seat boredom, allowing them to play video games and watch their favorite movies." Are we doing our children any favors by plugging them into a back seat entertainment center? There is a school of thought that says children would do better to "tackle boredom" by paying attention to the real world, notice their surroundings and develop non-wired social skills. Parents can help make road trips opportunities to bring their children out, not cocoon them in.

What do you think? What are the implications either way? Please write "Auto editor," Hills Newspapers, 5707 Redwood Rd., Oakland, CA 94619. Or write jsnyder1@ccimcs.com. Please include a daytime phone number. Responses will appear in print unless otherwise requested. Printed responses are subject to editing for style and length.

John Snyder, editor

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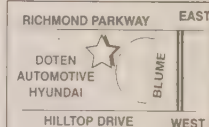
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Sunsational

Saab vs. the Microscope

The 9-5 Wagon holds up under tough scrutiny to win the AAA Top Car award. Automotive critics are tough. So you should take note of the new Saab 9-5 Wagon, winner of the AAA Top Car award for the \$35,000 to \$40,000 category. Impressive, since the category includes sedans and SUVs. Along with safety and versatility features, this new Saab has a turbo engine for performance you might not expect from a wagon. No wonder the judges were impressed.

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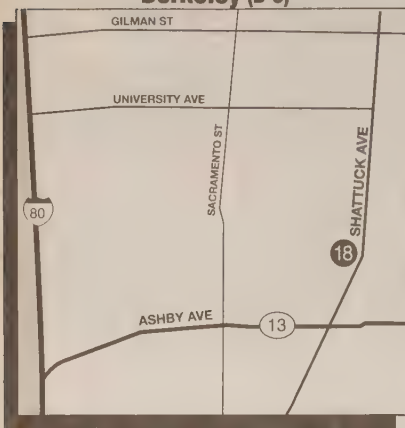
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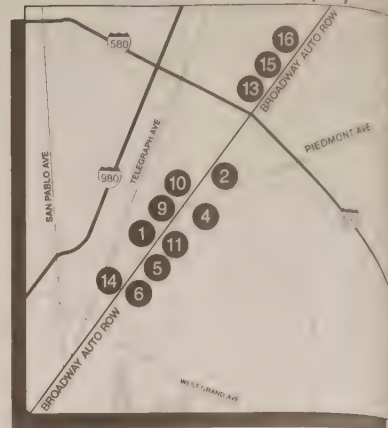
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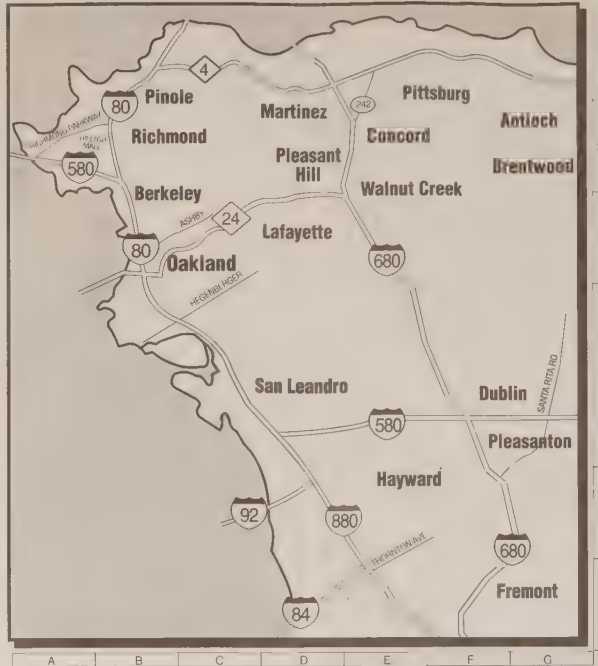
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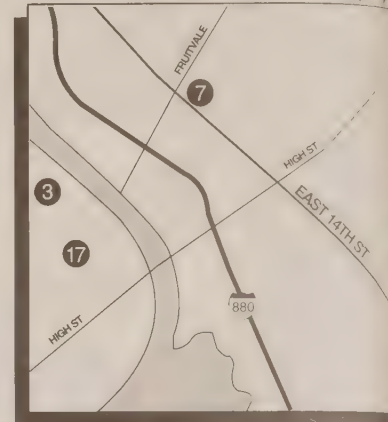
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Lincoln

FROM PAGE D1

As a result, the base version of LS will have chrome accents on the bumper fascias. When the optional Sport Package is ordered, the chrome is replaced with monochromatic front and rear bumpers. Except for wheel design, there are no external design cues or ornamentation to distinguish the V-6 from the V-8.

This is the offering of the "new" Lincoln Mercury following the Navigator and Mercury Cougar. Both have received an excellent reception from the public and we're willing to bet average and enthusiastic buyers will

look on the LS with favor.

This writer had the opportunity to drive all versions of the LS — due to be released in August — on northern California freeways and rural highways. This was followed by an afternoon of putting the LS through its paces on the Sports Car Club of America's, San Francisco Region, Thunderhill Race Track near Wil-lows.

Lincoln also provided an Audi A6, BMW 528i, Lexus ES300 and GS300 and a Mercedes-Benz C280 for comparison drives on the track.

We're not a fan of such comparison drives because it is too easy for an auto maker to stack the deck. In this case all the cars are considered prime rivals of the LS. It should be noted that the A6 and ES300 are

front-drive cars and are at a disadvantage on a race track where rear drivers offer superior handling capabilities.

It was generally agreed among the writers that the LS in all its versions was superior to the ES300 and A6. We would have preferred to compare the LS with an A6 with all-wheel drive (Quattro).

There was an almost even split among the writers on which car was superior between top LS and the 528i, while the Lincoln appeared to be the choice over the C280.

Buyers have a choice between V-6 or V-8 engines. The 3.0-liter DOHC V-6 is the newest addition to the Duratec V-6 family and is a Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) designed for the LS's north-south, rear-wheel drive

application. It has a peak output of 210 horsepower at 6500 rpm and 205 ft/lbs of torque at 4750 rpm.

We found it provides excellent throttle response and passing performance. Lincoln engineers claim a 9.0 zero to 60 mph time. It is available with either a 5-speed Getrag manual transmission or a 5-speed automatic. The automatic is available with an optional SelectShift feature, allowing the driver to manually shift gears.

The 3.9-liter V-8 is an all-new, all aluminum double overhead cam powerplant designed to provide a combination of spirited performance, durability, fuel economy and low emissions vehicle (LEV) standards. It hails from the acclaimed 4.0-liter AJ26 used in the Jaguar XK8.

The engine provides 252 horsepower at 6100 rpm and 267 ft/lbs of torque at 4300 rpm. Engineers claim it will go from zero to 60 mph in the mid-seven seconds range.

The V-8 is available only with the automatic transmission with SelectShift as an option.

Built on the same platform as the acclaimed S Jaguar sedan, the LS has race-bred credentials. Suspension and handling teams were composed of race course veterans. Jonathan Crocker, who led the steering and suspension design team spent a year in Formula One on the Benetton team, as did steering specialist Mike Liubakka. Jay O'Connell, who worked on the LS shock absorber development, is currently Ford's manager for CART racing.

The LS's crisp handling along with a comfortable ride is remarkable on both the highway and on the race course.

It features near 50/50 weight distribution. Thanks to the extensive use of aluminum and the placement of the battery in the trunk, the LS offers excellence balance.

The superb ride is aided by the highly rigid body structure. Body stiffness is the highest established for a Lincoln.

Only time will tell if Lincoln will succeed. After listening to Lincoln executives explain how the LS will fill the bill — and after driving the car — this writer believes there is a good chance Americans will listen and buy.

Autodoc

FROM PAGE D2

You can usually feel the bushing that the squeak is coming from. I do not think all the bushings would need replacement.

Camino stalls

Dear Doctor: I own 1985 Chevrolet El Camino 4.3-liter V6 automatic transmission with 118,000 miles. It runs fine, except it will sometimes stall out as I approach a stop. After that, it will usually run fine. Occasionally, it will stall when I put it in reverse. Can you help? George

Dear George: You first have to determine if the stalling is related to the engine or transmission. Idle speed is controlled by the computer. A stuck or faulty lock up torque converter clutch or solenoid can cause stalling, as can a lazy idle speed control motor, vacuum leaks, and especially an EGR valve opening too soon.

1990 Sundance calls for help

Dear Doctor: I own a 1990 Plymouth Sundance. Occasionally the engine light comes on during the hot weather. It doesn't stay on too long. The engine runs fine. Help! Gladys

Dear Gladys: You should take your car to the shop and show the technician which light was on. An engine light could be related to temperature. A "check engine" is related to the computer system.

What's with Toyota lights?

Dear Doctor: I own a 1990 Toyota wagon. Both the brake light and alternator light will sometimes come on and then go off. One shop said I need to replace the alternator, another shop could not find any problem. Can you help? Bill

Dear Bill: The most common problem when both the alternator and brake light come on together is a feedback from a faulty alternator.

Miniature engine stalls

Dear Doctor: I own a 1990 Oldsmobile Miniature 3.1-liter V6. The van has been trouble-free until now. After a 17 mile trip, as I was coming to a stop, the engine stalled out

and then started right back up. As soon as I put the transmission in drive, the engine stalled out. I waited ten minutes, and started it back up and it was fine. I had it checked and there were no trouble codes in the computer. The stalling happened again, but this time I had to let the van cool down for 30 minutes. What's the problem? Larry

Dear Larry: Your van has a common GM transmission problem with the lock up torque converter or solenoid. A simple test is to unplug the electrical connector on the front of the transmission and do a road test. I see this problem regularly.

Mazda engine shakes at idle

Dear Doctor: I own a 1988 Mazda MX6 with 99,500 miles. My problem is the engine shakes at idle while in drive. If I put the transmission in park, the idle is smooth. My local shop cannot seem to find the problem. I am reluctant to go to the dealer. Can you help? Richard

Dear Richard: For any engine to shake at idle while in gear, you need to look at a possible vacuum leak, weak engine valve, or low idle condition. It could also be a worn engine mount causing metal-to-metal interference. You may want to take the car to a dealer, or another repair shop for a second opinion.

Power seats lose steam

Dear Doctor: I am the proud owner of a 1960 Cadillac hard top with six-way power front seats. My problem is the power seat operation. When I push the power seat button, I hear the operation noise, but the seat does not move. Do you have any idea what the problem can be? Joseph

Dear Joseph: It sounds like either a small cable is broken, or the seat track is jammed. You will have to remove the seat to access the motor and small drive cables. You can buy universal seat cables at your local auto parts store and make up a new seat drive cable to the proper length.

Send questions to: Auto Doctor, 3 Court Circle, Lakeville, MA 02347.

Aid

FROM PAGE D1

Roadside assistance programs were first instituted by European luxury car manufacturers to further cosset their customers.

The idea, an excellent sales point, spread to all luxury cars and then to many lesser cars, some of the latter being eligible only if the buyer opts for an extended warranty.

Nonetheless, some 78 percent of all motorists are now a phone call away from getting emergency service at no charge. Strangely, a J.D. Power and Associates report says that a third of those who have the service don't know they have it.

The 1998 Emergency Roadside Assistance study covered original owners of 1997 models. It evaluated the experience car owners had with the various programs.

This was the third year of the study with consistent results. The conclusion appears to be that the manufacturers have not been diligent enough in informing their customers about the availability of the emergency aid.

Some manufacturers offer the roadside service on all of their models. For instance, models of the Japanese luxury lines (Acura, Lexus and Infiniti) are eligible, but the below-luxury cars (Honda, Toyota, Nissan and Subaru) with assistance programs only with the extra-cost option of a service contract that includes an extended warranty.

While owners of the luxury cars, for which the programs were standard, were reasonably aware of the programs (Acura owners at 87 percent), owners who had paid extra for the benefit were far less likely to be aware of their eligibility for emergency service. Sometimes that number was as low as 26 percent.

Audi was the star of the study with 90 percent of its owners aware of its program, the result of a concerted effort to inform them. Other European manufacturers such as Jaguar, BMW and Mercedes-Benz had made from 83 percent to 87 percent of their owners aware of their programs.

Cadillac owners were also in the 80 percentile, but most other American manufacturers scored in the 60 percentile. Mitsubishi owners were the least aware of that company's program at 46 percent. Suzuki offers an emergency program, Mazda covers only the luxury level Millennia and MPV minivan.

When car owners are knowledgeable about the service and call the magic num-

ber, what are their cars treated for? The J.D. Powers study found roadside problems ranked as flat tires (32 percent), towing (22 percent), lockouts (22 percent), jump starts (11 percent), and other (10 percent).

Not all assistance programs are created equal. The tire problems, dead batteries,

"If you are in a hurry, you hope that the independents get the job. The Powers study found that the independents' average response time is shorter (36 to 53 minutes for the programs under the company's aegis)."

Denise McLuggage

locked-in keys and out-of-gas calls are routine, but some cover towing only if the problem would be covered by the car's warranty. Some manufacturers have their own servicing independent and some contract the job out to network garages, or to automobile clubs such as the AAA.

If you are in a hurry, you hope that the independents get the job. The Powers study found that the independents' average response time is shorter (36 to 53 minutes for the programs under the company's aegis).

The Assistance Programs are usually in effect as long as a car is under warranty, with the most common length being three years or 36,000 miles.

So what about your car? Is it eligible for an emergency roadside service program? How do you access it? How long does it last? What is covered? And what isn't covered? If the answers are not to be found in the owner's manual, then call the customer's assistance line. That should be in the manual. Or buttonhole your dealer.

If you are car shopping, ask the salesperson for details on their assistance plan. If customers are as unaware, as the study indicates, of such a useful feature, someone along the line has failed to inform them. Audi seems to have got it right.

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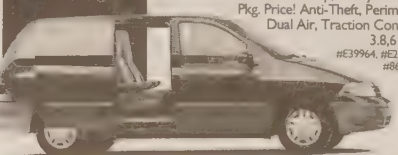
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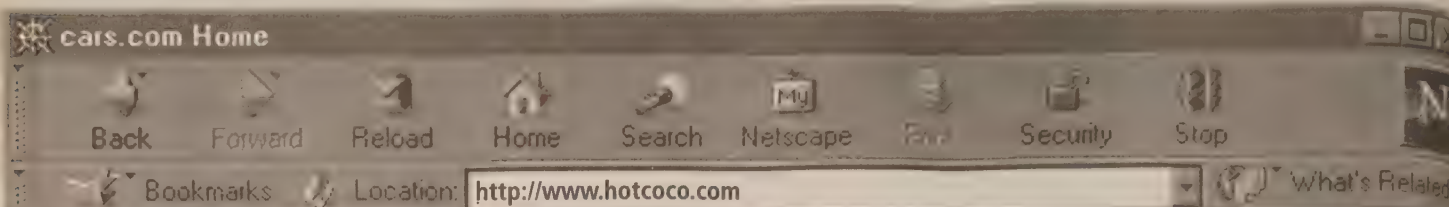
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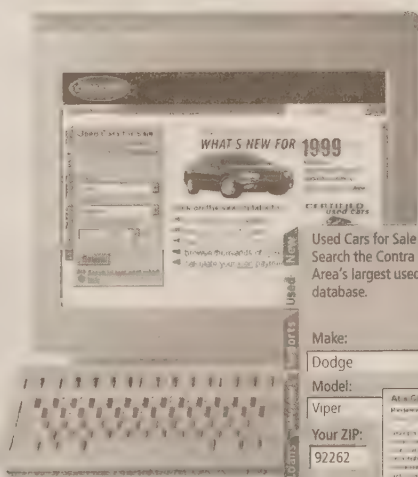
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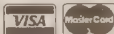
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DODGE 1992 Caravan, original owner, leather, loaded. Well-maintained 108K highway miles, \$4500/offer. (510)339-0653

DODGE 1989 Caravan SE, V6 engine, only 90K orig miles. Loaded. \$3000. 510-799-7815 leave message if not at home.

FORD '89 F-150 Super-cab PUJ shell, 42K original miles, good for camping, 111,600 obo. 510-864-9488.

FORD '89 Taurus, Excellent. New engine/transmission/brakes. Loaded. Alloy's. Book: \$5000, selling \$2800; 510-433-4701

FORD 1991 Explorer XL, 4dr, burgundy, 2-door, 5-spd, V-6, with luggage rack. Nice. \$9000. 510-635-8035

101 Autos

JEEP 1994 Cherokee Country, green/gold, 4WD, all power, 60K miles, \$12,500. Call Brian: 510-665-9411

LEXUS 1995 SC300 extra clean, low miles, loaded. STK#464380 SALE: \$27,995
Lloyd Wise
Used Car Supermarket
510-636-4800

LEXUS 1991 LS 400 CD, 5-spd, PS, CD, cassette, 104K, good condition. Original owner. \$1950. 510-601-0352

MAZDA '88 323SE, hatchback, 5-spd, PS, CD, cassette, 104K, good condition. Original owner. \$1950. 510-601-0352

MAZDA 1997 626 AT, PS, AC, PL, PW, Ither, extra clean, STK#463770 SALE: \$11,988
Lloyd Wise
Used Car Supermarket
510-636-4800

MERCEDES '89 300e, 67K, 1 owner, smoke silver, new tires, chrome wheels. \$19,000. 510-547-5907.

NISSAN '95 Altima GXE, 82K, clean, loaded, new tires/brakes. \$8500. Call 510-339-8525.

NISSAN '89 Maxima, Loaded, leather, base audio, sunroof, luxury package. Excellent. 77K, \$6900/offer. 510-947-1033

NISSAN 1995 Pathfinder, Green/Gray interior, 48K, 5-spd, fully loaded, sunroof, new tires. \$15,000. 510-632-5535

NISSAN 1993 300ZX, 5-speed, PS, AC, PL, PW, ABS, STK#464270 SALE: \$17,888
Lloyd Wise
Used Car Supermarket
510-636-4800

OLDSMOBILE 1988 Cutlass Sierra, 81K, V6, White. Spot less loaded. Bargain leaving USA. \$3950. obo. 510-704-4032

PLYMOUTH 1989 Grand Voyager LE, Dual AC, New tires, Valve Job. Excellent condition. \$4500. 510-658-8768

PONTIAC '84, Bonneville, Only 53K, new tires, breaks, mint condition. In/out. \$3990/bo 510-626-5594

SALE: \$17,888
Lloyd Wise
Used Car Supermarket
510-636-4800

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OLDSMOBILE 1988 Cutlass Sierra, 81K, V6, White. Spot less loaded. Bargain leaving USA. \$3950. obo. 510-704-4032

101 Autos

PLYMOUTH 1985 Reliant stationwagon, \$1200, 51K, 4-door, automatic, good condition. blue. (510)849-4031

SUBARU 1992 GL Station Wagon for sale \$995/ OBO. Call 510-622-1718

SUZUKI 92 Sdx-cck, convertible, Red/black, 2 door, 5 speed manual. Perfect condition. 27K \$4800. 510-839-4794.

TOYOTA '91 Camry DX, 4-cyl., automatic, 80K, recent service. Perfect condition. \$7995. Call (510)658-3635.

TOYOTA 1994 4X4 Deluxe truck (red) 5-Speed, air, tow/pkg, cassette, excellent condition. \$8988. 510-865-3652 eves.

TOYOTA 1994 4X4 Deluxe truck (red) 5-Speed, air, tow/pkg, cassette, excellent condition. \$8988. 510-865-3652 eves.

TOYOTA 1987 Celica GTS 5-spd, 4-cyl, alloy, cassette, mint condition. \$5995. 510-521-8788

TOYOTA 1984 4-RUNNER SR5, 5-spd, 4WD, alloy, cassette, mint condition. \$5995. 510-556-1348.

VOLVO 78 740GLE Sedan, Automatic trans. Fully equip, leather, CD player, mint condition. \$3950. 510-556-1348.

VW Super Beetle 79 Convertible White inside and out. New engine, excellent body. \$5,000. 510-521-5096

ALAMEDA Computer School, Online Investing, Windows, Word, Beginners & Internet. Low Rates, small classes. 510-749-3668

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205 Giveaway

URGENTLY need temporary foster homes for homeless animals. Need food, cages, litter, traps. Marc 510-444-3204

10 WK old kittens, cute, cuddly, tested shots, alter assistance if needed. Donation. 510-654-6799.

206 Lost

LOST Dog 5/30, yellow Lab, female, near Treble Glen. 510-653-1149

LOST cat, male, Montclair area, gray/black tabby. Small, nurtured. Reward. 510-339-2581.

CAT, "Dudley", white/light orange, left ear tipped black, adult, Rockridge area, 6/4/99. Call 510-923-0271.

LOST Iranian passport around Berkeley area, approx Feb 1. If you find, please call 510-704-0851.

SPALDING mitt lost near Codornices Park Berkeley. Rose Garden Station, 6/5/99. Call K115. 510-724-9057. Reward.

LOVABLE Attendant needed for 6 yr old boy w/ Cerebral Palsy during summer day camp program. Hours vary M-F during day from 6/21/99 to 8/20/99. Must be at least 18 yrs old, healthy and responsible. Hourly rate negotiable. Call 510-652-1096 after 5pm.

Many jobs, full-time, part-time, live-in, live-out. No fee. Moms Away, 559-9195

NANNY/ Housekeeper, Switzerland, 3 children (7-12), English speaking, single, nonsmoking, November - April. References 925-254-2225

NANNY/ Mothers helper, 9 months old twins, 3 yr old. Monday-Friday 30-40 wk. Light housekeeping. English speaking. 510-653-5159

AD Agency needs Traffic/AE 1-3 years exper. Nice people, good clients. Fax resume: 510-271-8808.

ADMINISTRATIVE Asst. MSW/DO 60, Excel, Good writing skills, accounting background, A/R, A/P, customer service, able to multitask and detail oriented. 510-652-6020 or fax resume 510-652-6715

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401 Childcare Wanted

AFTERNOON CHILDCARE for 7 and 9 yr old, 15-20 hrs/week. Require car, nonsmoking, fluent English. Please call Rebecca at 510-339-6286.

BABYSITTER needed for energetic 2 yr boy. Flexible hours. English speaking, car, references required. 510-653-4046

BABYSITTING/ Housekeeping, 8-12 hours/wk. Monday/Wednesday evenings. occasional weekends. Own car, nonsmoking, good English. North Berkeley Hills, 59/our. Commit 1 year. 510-528-3479.

CHILD CARE, 11-5 yr olds, Oakland, Tues. & Thurs. 3:00-6:00 PM. Fridays 12:00-4:00 PM. Own car/CDL. 3 Refs. Start 6/28/99. 510-530-4557

KENNINGTON couple seeks after-school daycare for 7 yr old. Monday-Thursday. English speaking. Must have car. Call 510-528-9518

LOVABLE Attendant needed for 6 yr old boy w/ Cerebral Palsy during summer day camp program. Hours vary M-F during day from 6/21/99 to 8/20/99. Must be at least 18 yrs old, healthy and responsible. Hourly rate negotiable. Call 510-652-1096 after 5pm.

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403 Help Wanted

ACCOUNTING Clerk. Software Development Company, Alameda, temporary to regular flexible hours, good benefits, casual environment. Position will involve Accounts Payable and general finance support. Fax resume to 510-337-2960. Attn: Ilika

Tired Of Commuting? Party America, a growing retail chain of Party Superstores in California, Colorado & Utah, is based in Alameda and we are adding to our corporate accounting team.

ACCOUNTING MANAGER ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

We offer an excellent salary and benefits package with a fun team environment. Please fax resume to 510-747-1810 to Human Resources or call 510-747-1800 ext 220 EOE

PARTY AMERICA

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

EBAC, a leading non-profit children's agency is seeking a highly organized, detail-oriented individual w/ exceptional computer skills (Word, Excel, Access) for A/P and G/L entry. 30 hr. week/ salary DOE, excellent benefits/vacations, supportive and fast-paced environment. EOE. Resume/letter EBAC, Personnel/ADM, 303 Van Buren Ave., Oakland, CA. 94610.

AD Agency needs Traffic/AE 1-3 years exper. Nice people, good clients. Fax resume: 510-271-8808.

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403 Help Wanted

CONSTRUCTION: Lead Carpenter. M. F. needed for high-end Residential Remodeling Co. Capable of running projects. Seeking a competent, motivated, organized foreperson who can really make a difference. Call Jordan at 510-652-1557 or Fax your resume to 510-654-5210.

CUSTOMER SERVICE/Office in Albany, FT. \$8-\$9/hr. Call 510-525-7760.

► To Place A Classified Ad Call 339-8777

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403 Help Wanted

HAIRSTYLIST: Station rental now available in charming upscale Rockledge Salon. Reasonable rent. 510-653-3904. 510-548-0626

LASAR AGENCY

1430 FRANKLIN STREET, OAKLAND, CA (510)993-9612

PHONE DISPATCHER

Evening shift, low trucks, training \$10/Hr. CUSTOMER SERVICE/Training, data entry. \$10/Hr. benefits. DRIVER: Large pickup truck, lifting. Regular license \$10/Hr.

PLUMBING/Counter-panels

Sales. Exp. \$14/Hr.

LAW OFFICE EVERYTHING

Reception, clerical, administrative, and light secretarial. Must have office experience, computer savvy, and four year degree. Resume to: Peter Stanwick, 414 13th Street, Oakland, CA 94612 or fax 510-434-0701.

LICENSED OR NOT WE'RE HIRING NOW

Prudential Real Estate of El Sobrante will pay for your State required course and training. Call today for interview. 1-800-400-5391 ext. 459

LICENSED OR NOT WE'RE HIRING NOW

Better Homes Realty of Oakland will pay for your State required course and training. Call today for interview. (800)400-5391 ext. 424

LIFE GUARD/ Swim Instructor

PT or FT. Montclair Swim Club Call Brian at 510-339-2500.

MANAGER, 16-unit apt.

near Lake Merritt, reduced rent, minor maintenance. Fax resume 415-986-2259.

DIRECTOR OF SALES MARKETING

Sunrise Assisted Living is seeking a Sales & Marketing professional for our Oakland Hills community. We seek a career-minded, experienced salesperson w/ strong presentation and communication skills. A dedication to seniors a must. We offer a competitive salary plus commission, bonuses and benefits. Forward a resume to:

SUNRISE OF OAKLAND HILLS
Attn Bill Kock
11889 Skyline Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94619
Fax 510-531-3633.

MEDICAL FRONT OFFICE

F-T Benefits available. 2 MD practices in Alameda. Fax resume to 510-748-5425.

F/C BOOKKEEPER

Strong understanding of AP, AP/Adv. Adjustments and closings, posting general ledger, cash receipts, cash disbursements. Able to work with others. Independently complete projects on time. Good oral and written communication skills. Computer skills. (Peachtree, Excel, etc.) a must. Two years account degree. E-mail resume to: mitchell@online.com or fax 510-534-4010

FLORAL Designer, experienced

PT/FT for flower shop Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-658-4292

FRIENDLY person for PT work

in a chiropractic office at Oakland/Piedmont border. 510-653-1515

GARDENERS Asst. PT.

Chilenoita Fairland. Help keep us green and weed-free. Call J. Torres 510-452-2259

HOUSECLEANERS

Expanding cleaning company needs cleaners. Part-time Full-time. \$10/hour. English speaking; registered car; telephone required. References. Lisa 510-883-1747

HOUSECLEANERS-PT.

experience required, days only. Oakland and Berkeley areas. \$8-\$9/hr. No car required. Fresh impressions. 510-632-7670

JANITOR, PT Children's

Sanit. Stand. Inter. low clean? Call J. Torres 510-452-2259

KENNEL Worker position

available at busy vet hospital. Duties include cleaning, animal bathing and walking, and assisting technician. Some weekend hrs incl. Exper. pref. but will train right person. Send application to Park Center Animal Hospital, 1410 Everett St., Alameda 94601 Attn Office Manager or fax to 510-522-8452. No phone calls please!

403 Help Wanted

MARKETING MANAGER: Immediate FT, fast paced Montclair real estate office. Experienced & enthusiastic self-starter. Proficient in PageMaker 6.5 & PhotoShop. Excellent written & verbal skills. Multi-industry & creative skills. Attention to detail & able to manage multiple projects. Fax resume & letter of reference to 510-547-0219

MEDICAL Receptionist

Berkeley. Single doctor's office, 20-hr week afternoons. Reliable, energetic, experience helpful. 510-232-0300

MEDICAL Receptionist

scheduler for busy physical therapy clinic. Requires excellent customer service skills, multi-tasking ability. Fax resumes to 510-983-9432.

MENTAL HEALTH WORKER

Part-time (12 hours week Monday-Friday) in Alameda. MA psychology, MSW or BA plus 2 yrs of counseling, crisis intervention, & child experience. \$13.41/hr. Resume and cover letter: PO 2269 Oakland, CA 94621.

MONTCLAIR Recreation Center needs Office Person

PT, M-F, 1-5 p.m., busy office handling class and camp registration, heavy phones and public contact. Computer background helpful. Call 415-482-7812 or fax resume 510-482-7843.

Mr. Mopp's Children's Books and Toys

Assembling and Varied duties. Dynamic, Great Plains, Filenaker, 10-key by touch, excellent office, people skills. Great thinking ability and a pro people environment, part of the benefit! Call Tracy @ 510-522-1222 ext 300.

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Seeking intelligent, organized, self-motivated, detail-oriented, proactive, energetic individual. Growing fast-paced local loan company. Best knowledge desirable. Fax resume to 510-749-0052

OFFICE ASSISTANT, El Cerrito

part-time, growing company, excellent phone, detail-oriented, ability to work alone. MS Word essential. QuickBooks helpful. Salary DOE (510)339-1380

OFFICE ASSISTANT: 20 hrs/wk., \$10-\$12/hr.

Small but busy real estate office. Prefer right estate expert. Must be able to handle the phone. Good with public, phones, light bookkeeping, basic computer. Sense of humor, flexibility, responsibility. Fax resume 510-524-0688

OFFICE assistant, part-time

for small busy growing real estate property management firm in Oakland must be comfortable with computers, well-organized, good with people. Responsibilities include bookkeeping, answering phones, scheduling maintenance, producing letters, keeping calm. Full-time position, mornings, fifteen per week, possibly full-time. Please call 510-347-2337.

PRODUCE Clerk, FT, w/ benefits, experience required

Love working w/ people. Strong, reliable, full-time position. Apply at Natural Grocery Company, 10367 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito.

403 Help Wanted

OFFICE Assistant, permanent P/T position in Laurel District. Flexible hrs, computer skills, car helpful, a variety of tasks. email: paperpie@aol.com or call 510-482-3854

OFFICE Manager, Cerrito not a job!

FT, Holistic Chiropractic Practice, North Oakland/Rockledge. Enjoy working with people, strong marketing sense, insurance billing, patient scheduling, bookkeeping, and Macintosh computer skills. Must have own car, be in good health and live in the bay area. Holistic experience preferred. Resume: 2002, 5273 College Ave., Oakland CA 94618, FAX: 510-652-2326

OFFICE Manager, 1/2 time

WordPerfect, organized, enjoys people, multi-tasking ability. Salary/benefits negotiable. Resume, 3 references by 6/16. Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito, 94530

OFFICE Manager, 2/3 time

for Albany Berkeley office. Excellent benefits, computer skills a must. For information call 925-942-5945

RECEPTIONIST/ ASSISTANT: Professional person

with excellent communication skills, computer literate. Duties include answering calls, managing outgoing shipments, incoming/outgoing mail. Willing to take on extra duties. \$6.50 an hour plus benefits. Fax resume to Human Resource Dept 510-436-4150

RESIDENT Manager: organization and interpersonal

skills a must. Experience required. Fax resume to 510-763-9586 or call 510-763-9500

RESTAURANT Mexican Restaurant needs experienced

line cooks, also cashiers and bus boys. Apply today at: Pico Cofra Mexicana 1328 6th Street, Berkeley, El Cerrito. 510-525-3121

RETAIL BANCROFT CLOTHING CO.

FT/Clinique cosmetic counter manager. Base pay plus commission. Apply in person at 2530 Bancroft Way, Berkeley

RETAIL Sales: Upscale Furniture Store seeking experienced

P/T sales with established Park Shore location in Alameda. Must be motivated, self-starter with good communication skills. Excellent opportunity for the right person. Sales experience a must. Call 521-6227, Monday to Friday, 2pm-8pm only Ask for Debbie

RETAIL sales F/T, P/T. Britches seeks a self-motivated person with

experience selling ladies apparel. Top salary. 510-891-9861

RETAIL Sales, for a boutique

Must be fluent in English, proficient with numbers, and have transportation. No sales experience necessary, but helpful. Full-time and part-time positions available, both weekdays and weekends available. Pick up an application between 3-6pm, Monday-Friday at 3929 Piedmont Ave., Oakland

Sales/Pharmaceutical

invite those who want to impact human health and represent one of the world's largest and most respected pharmaceutical companies to join us. Our supportive teams of sales professionals continually develop strong territories through envisioning "what if?" and "why not?" With focus and goals, we improve global health - one relationship at a time

With us, you'll receive some of the most comprehensive training in the industry - the kind that lasts a lifetime. You'll enjoy an excellent salary, bonuses, and opportunities you would expect from a world leader

Pharmaceutical Consultants

SmithKline Beecham welcomes your application to join us as Pharmaceutical Consultants for the Oakland/Alameda/Berkeley, CA, area. A college degree, a proven track record in sales, and a desire to work in an environment that encourages your contribution toward change is just the beginning of how you'll succeed with us.

Please forward two copies of your resume to: Job Code: MGBK85, SmithKline Beecham, 9110-B Alameda Blvd., Box 333, San Ramon, CA 94583. Indicating Job Code is essential. No phone calls, please. For more information and to apply online, visit our website at www.sb.com/careers

Developing talent through equality of opportunity, MFD/IV

Realize your potential

SB SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals

EOE
Visit our website at www.rceb.org for a complete listing of open positions.

403 Help Wanted

REAL ESTATE SALES FREE TRAINING! Quick Licensing, fee reimbursement, and FREE training for licensed agents. Positions available. Call Prudential California Realty/ Mason McDuffie Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm. 1-800-499-5551

RECEPTIONIST

For busy El Cerrito real estate office. Real estate experience helpful, computer skills a must. For information call 925-942-5945

RECEPTIONIST/ ASSISTANT: Professional person

with excellent communication skills, computer literate. Duties include answering calls, managing outgoing shipments, incoming/outgoing mail. Willing to take on extra duties. \$6.50 an hour plus benefits. Fax resume to Human Resource Dept 510-436-4150

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Must be fluent in English, proficient with numbers, and have transportation. No sales experience necessary, but helpful. Full-time and part-time positions available, both weekdays and weekends available. Pick up an application between 3-6pm, Monday-Friday at 3929 Piedmont Ave., Oakland

Sales/Pharmaceutical

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RECEPTIONIST/ ASSISTANT: Professional person

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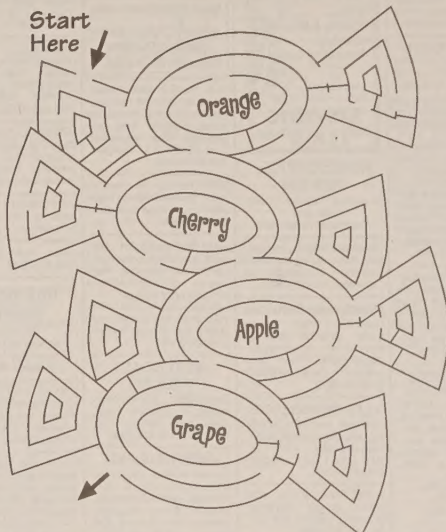
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Start Here



Man-Eating Shark



The most deadly of man-eating sharks is the great white shark, which is found in warmer oceans around the world.

Usually hunting alone, the great white shark eats tuna, marlin, sea lions, seals and dolphins on a regular basis. Once it eats large prey, the great white can survive for a month without eating again. But the great white shark doesn't just eat when it's hungry; it feeds when it finds prey.

A great white shark can detect a single drop of blood in more than a million gallons of water. That's because within the shark's snout there are thousands of tiny holes that make up its main nerve center.

Triangular teeth with jagged edges make the great white a fierce predator. Its teeth can grow up to three inches long, and if it loses a tooth, another one replaces it.

The great white discharges its urine through tissues and then out its body through the skin; so although people hunt the great white shark, they can't eat it.

Because the great white shark is constantly on the move, scientists haven't been able to study it much. Scientists do believe that when the great white shark gets to be a certain size, it heads to the depths of the ocean and stays there the rest of its life.

Records, Records & More Records

From making beer to educating people, times have really changed for Guinness. It all started back in the 1930s, when the Guinness company was looking for ways to promote its beer.

The answer became a book that a bartender could use to help settle arguments about all kinds of topics.

The Guinness Book of Records first came out in 1955 and became a bestseller. Since it first came out, more than 80 million copies have been sold in 40 countries. It has been published in 37 languages.

Today, the company also publishes Guinness Rockopedia, The Guinness Book of Amazing Nature, Guinness Classical 1000, Guinness Guide to Classical Composers, Guinness Book of Knowledge and The Guinness Book of Crime.

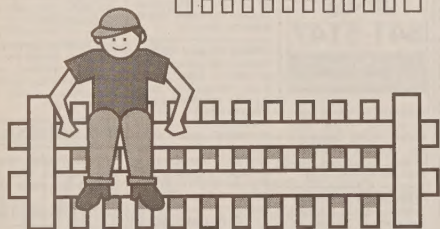
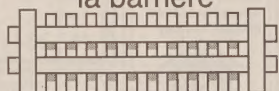
From the biggest feet in the world to the craziest pet wedding to finding out how a microwave oven works to everything you want to know about rock and pop music, the Guinness books have all kinds of information.

Learn Some French

le garçon



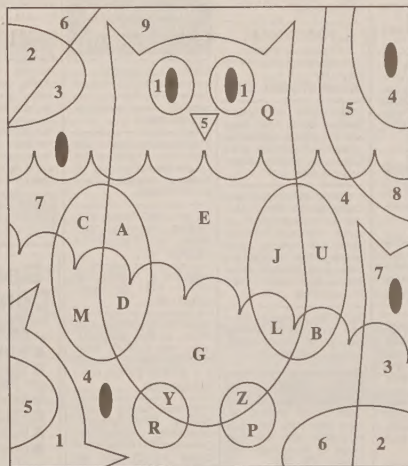
la barrière



The boy is sitting on the fence.

Le garçon est assis sur la barrière.

HIDDEN PICTURE



Color in each space that contains a letter.

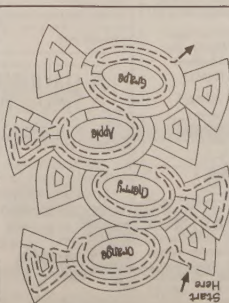
FIND THE TWINS

WHICH TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE?

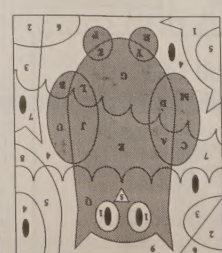


ANSWER: TWO AND FIVE

S	H	E	L	L	E	S	H	E	L	L	E	S
M	K	O	M	O	M	O	M	O	M	O	M	O
O	C	P	T	H	D	C	O	I	L	M	K	O
I	E	U	R	Y	J	A	C	K	T	O	C	P
E	D	I	A	M	O	N	D	R	W	I	E	U
C	Z	A	E	E	K	C	L	U	B	E	D	I
B	U	T	C	K	E	R	A	V	E	Z	C	Z
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D	F	G	C	A	R	D	S	H	J	D	F	G
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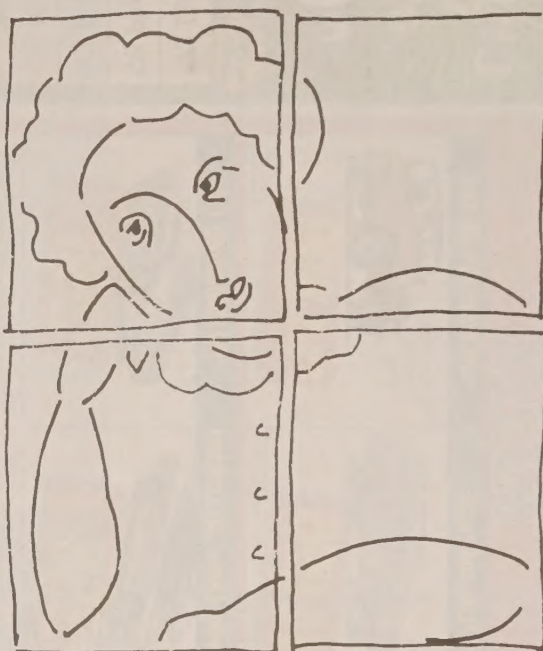


ANSWERS



SEND A MEAL— SHARE YOUR LOVE

Meals-on-Wheels
brings hope
to the
homebound
elderly.



For over twenty years, County meals-on-Wheels programs have been bringing hot meals and warm, personal visits to our isolated and lonely elderly neighbors. As our aging population has grown, the number of meals-on-wheels delivered has increased dramatically. Today, over 2,100 frail, homebound seniors throughout Alameda County rely on this daily support to maintain their precious independence.

Unfortunately, for every senior who receives a meal, another waits and goes without.

So today, please share your love and concern. We need your help to eliminate the waiting and break the isolation. Return this coupon with a generous tax-deductible contribution.

Keep the wheels turning!

☐ \$450 for 100 home-delivered meals

Name _____

☐ \$180 for 40 home-delivered meals

Address _____

☐ \$45 for 10 home-delivered meals

☐ _____ is my contribution to help
in any way I can.

City _____ Zip _____

*Each meal also
brings a personal visit.*



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Oakland, CA 94621
(510) 567-8056

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GMC

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All New '99 Sierra Full Size Truck

\$15,998

\$16,998 price - \$1,000 college grad rebate = \$15,998. After recent college grad rebate. Price excludes taxes. VIN #522115

'99 Suburban

\$399 +tax only 36 months

36 mo. lease. \$5000 total due at lease signing from customer. Residual \$27,666.98. Lease based on 12¢/mi. Only one at this price. VIN #773229

PONTIAC

'99 Grand Am SE2

\$195 +tax only 36 months

36 mo. lease. \$5000 total due at lease signing from customer. Residual \$10,629.50. Lease based on 12¢/mi. Only one at this price. VIN #522115

'99 Montana Mini-Van

\$20,998

OR CHOOSE 0% APR Financing for 36 months

After \$1000 factory rebate. Price excludes taxes. VIN #234209

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AC Cassette

\$14,995 +tax

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'99 Sebring Conv. JXi Limited

\$358 per mo. +tax

36 mo. closed end lease. \$5500 total due at lease signing from customer. Residual \$27,666.98. Lease based on 12¢/mi. Only one at this price. VIN #234209

'99 Neon

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Convenience Gp. Auto Power Steering Value Gp. AC and more!

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'99 Breeze Expresso

\$14,999 +tax

Remote Entry Group Automatic 2.4 DOHC 16V

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'93 Buick Regal	481418	'95 Ford Probe	150360
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'97 Nissan Altima	135279	'93 Jeep Gr. Cherokee	554729
'93 Chevy Blazer	145402	'97 Pontiac Grand Am	712119
'98 Plymouth Breeze	314255	'96 GMC Sonoma	317914
'94 Ford Crown Vic	104796	'97 Mazda B2300	411957
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'97 Chevy C1500	134768	'96 Toyota Camry	373268
'95 Lincoln Continental	681314	'93 Cadillac Eldorado	610254
'95 Nissan Pathfinder	101837	'98 Nissan Frontier	318482
'95 VW Passat	100565	'98 Merc. Mystique	618519

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